Age Differences

(6)

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:

AGE DIFFERENCES WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON PERSONS AGED 85+

Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs
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Arlene Hoffman, Ph.D.
Research Consultant

SUMMARY

This paper focuses on the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population surveyed for the USCO study: the respondents who are 85 years of age and older. The meaningful characteristics of these persons have been isolated through a comparison of their experiences with the experiences of persons aged 62 to 74 and persons aged 75 to 84. The findings revealed that the three groups differed in terms of their demographic characteristics, their living situation and their preferences.

Within the population surveyed, 60% of the respondents fell between the ages of 62-74; 33% were aged 75 to 84 and seven percent were aged 85+ and over. The rural areas housed the largest concentration of the oldest respondents. The smallest concentration of the most elderly group was found in Sault Ste. Marie. The respondents in the 85+ group were characterized by the fact that they were more likely than the respondents in the other groups to be widowed, to fall into the lowest income category (less than $600 per month),[1] to have less than nine years of schooling, to be unemployed, to reside in apartments, to rent their housing and to reside alone.

The social contacts maintained by the respondents were examined in relation to age group differences. No differences across age were found in the number of respondents who had contact with family. With respect to frequency of contact with family, the respondents aged 85+ were in phone contact with family and were visited by family as frequently as the respondents in the other age groups. However, their visits to family were less frequent. Contacts with friends differed significantly across age groups. With increasing age, the respondents visited friends less frequently and had less frequent phone contact with them.

The recreational participation of the respondents also varied by age. As the respondents grew older, they participated in fewer activities. The respondents aged 85+ were less likely than the younger respondents to work in the garden, participate in clubs, attend the theatre, go to sports events, phone friends, visit family, visit friends, participate in sports, play cards, do volunteer work, help out at election time, travel and entertain. With increasing age, the respondents were more likely to report that health, transportation, being too old and the absence of companions kept them from participating in the recreational activities to the extent they desired.

The health status of the respondents was determined on the basis of self-reports. Seven measures of health status were used. The respondents aged 85+ were found to differ from the younger respondents by the fact that they were more likely to perceive their health as fair or poor, report a deterioration in their health over a five year period, report that their health interfered with their performance of day to day activities, and have restricted mobility.

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[1] On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

The respondents who were aged 85+ used the health care system more frequently than those in the other age groups. They made more visits to family doctors and had a greater likelihood of being hospitalized. Once hospitalized, the respondents aged 85+ remained in the hospital for a longer period of time. Stays in hospital of eight or more days were common to ten percent of the respondents aged 62 and 74 compared to fourteen percent of the respondents aged 85+.

Many of the respondents aged 85+ had difficulty carrying out basic Activities of Daily Living (ADLS). In this survey, nine ADLS were assessed. They included using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. For each, increasing age was associated with a greater likelihood of reporting difficulty with or an inability (disability) to carry out the activity.

Just as the respondents aged 85+ were more likely to report disabilities; they were also more likley to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities. Seventy-nine percent received assistance with at least one activity. Thirty-nine percent had help with five or more activities.

The sources of assistance used by the respondents were documented and significant differences were delineated across age groups. Whereas, the respondents in the younger age groups received the most significant proportion of assistance from children, the respondents in the 85+ age group received the largest proportion of help from family other than children and spouses. The persons aged 85+ were more likely to be in receipt of assistance from community agencies.

Information was obtained on the type of housing arrangements the respondents would be interested in should they be unable to care for their own needs. The respondents aged 85+ expressed most interest (62%) in staying home with the assistance of community services. The most popular housing option indicated by the respondents in the younger age groups was moving into a supportive housing arrangement. It is noteworthy that as the respondents grew older, they were more likely to express an interest in moving in with family.

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated with those modes were delineated in this survey. The modes used differed by age. The largest proportion (a minimum of 39%) of the respondents aged 85+ were driven by relatives when going shopping, to medical appointments, and to social occasions. In contrast, the most significant proportion (a minimum of 30%) of the respondents in the younger age groups drove themselves to the activities. As the respondents aged, they were more likely to walk to the activities, less likely to drive themselves, less likely to be driven by their spouses and more likely to be driven by relatives. No statistically significant differences were found across age groups in the number of respondents who reported problems getting to the activities.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey.[1] The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population surveyed: the persons who are 85 years of age and over. Gerontological research has amply demonstrated that once persons reach the age of 65 they cannot be easily grouped together and studied as a whole. With an age range that can span thirty to forty years beginning at the age of 65, the differences between the persons at either end of the spectrum can be considerable. The interests, the lifestyles and the requirements for assistance can vary dramatically.

The goal of this paper is to explore the living situation of persons who are 85 years of age and over and to determine their special requirements. In exploring the living situation of these individuals, consideration is being given to their demographic characteristics, their health status, their use of the health care system, their social contacts, their recreational participation, their receipt of assistance, their requests for additional assistance, their interest in various housing options and their use of transportation.

The characteristics of the persons aged 85+ are isolated through a comparison of their experiences with the experiences of persons aged 62 to 74 and persons aged 75 to 84. These groups were chosen for comparison in view of the results of preliminary data analyses which found these groups to have exceptionally distinct characteristics.

This paper concentrates on the differences among the three age groups. The living situation of the sample as a whole has been described in previous papers; each covering a specific topic. The reader should refer to these papers as basic references and any further comparisons of the data.

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[1] Refer to Appendix for a list of other papers in USCO series.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section reviews the demographic characteristics of the persons in the three age groups. Consideration is given to their community of residence, sex, marital status, income, education, employment status, and housing.

In the population surveyed sixty percent (n=503) of the respondents fell between the ages of 62 and 74, 33% (n=276) were aged 75 to 84 and seven percent (n=64) were aged 85 and over. Table 1 shows that the age distribution of the population differed across communities. The proportion of respondents in the youngest group (62-74) ranged from a low of 55% in the rural areas (n=93) and Pentanguishene (n=55) to a high of 64% (n=168) in Toronto. The rural areas housed the largest concentration (12%, n=19) of persons aged 85+. The smallest proportion of persons 65 and over was found in Sault Ste. Marie (5%, n=6).

Overall, the sample included 42% (n=353) men and 58% (n=481) women. No statistically significant differences were found in the age distribution of the sexes. Women comprised 56% (n=278) of the 62 to 74 age group and 65% (n=41) of the 85+ group.

The youngest age group (62-74) was made up largely of married respondents (66%, n=333). The middle group (75-84) was comprised of an equal proportion (46%, n= 125, n=126, respectively) of married and widowed individuals. The oldest group (85+) was predominantly widowed (68%, n=43). Refer to Table 2.

Lower incomes were associated with increased age. Table 3 shows that the lowest income group (below $600/month) was made up of 18% (n=84) of the persons 62-74 and fully 54% (n=29) of the persons aged 85+[1]. THe highest income group ($1,000+), on the other hand, was composed of close to one-half (49%, n=230) of the persons 62-74 compared to less than one-fifth of the persons 85 and over.

Advanced age was related to fewer years of formal education. Table 4 reveals that over one-fifth (56%, n=35) of the 85+ group had less than nine years of schooling. This figure compares to 37% (n=180) of the group aged 62-74. Persons who had thirteen or more years of education included close to one-fifth (19%, n=93) of the 62-74 age group and 13% (n=8) of the 85+ group.

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Eleven percent (n=57) of the youngest group (62-74) were employed. Among the oldest respondents, three percent (n=2) were gainfully employed. See Table 5.

Tables 6, 7 and 8 illustrate that the housing situation of the respondents varied across age groups. As the respondents grew older, they were more likely to rent their housing. The respondents in the middle group (aged 75-84) had the greatest tendency to reside in houses and to reside alone.

3. SOCIAL CONTACTS

Visits with family and friends by telephone and in person were the basis for assessing the respondents' social contacts. This section examines the frequency of these contacts.

Almost all (99%, n=835) of the respondents maintained contact with at least one family member. Eighty-two percent (n=687) had contact with at least one child. No significant differences were found across age groups in the proportion of respondents who maintained these contacts.

Age did not differentiate among groups in the frequency of phone contacts maintained with family or the frequency of visits from family. However, the frequency of visits to family did differ by age. With advancing age, the respondents visited family less often. Fifty-two percent (n=31) of the respondents aged 85+ visited family less than once per month. This figure compares to 31% (n=154) of the respondents aged 62-74. Refer to Table 9.

The frequency of contact with friends varied considerably more among age groups than the frequency of contact with family. Increased age was accompanied by less frequent phone contact and less frequent visits to friends. Table 10 illustrates that close to one-third (31%, n=19) of the respondents aged 85+ were in phone contact with friends less than once per month. The corresponding percentage for respondents aged 62 to 74 was twelve (n=62). Table 11 shows that 38% point difference between the youngest and oldest age groups in the number of respondents who visited friends less than once per month (27%, n=138, of the 62-74 age group) (65%, n=39 of the 85+ age group). The frequency with which friends visited respondents did not vary by age.

4. RECREATION

Participation in recreational activities was examined in this survey. This section explores the recreational participation of the respondents and examines the relationship of age to participation.

The respondents were read a list of 21 activities and were asked about the extent of their participation in each activity. The activities included solitary activities such as handicrafts, group activities like club participation, activities requiring minimal output of energy like reading and activities requiring greater output like sports. The respondents' participation ranged from one to twenty activities with a mean of twelve. Twenty-eight percent (n=233) of the sample participated in a maximum of ten activities, 21% (n=178) were involved in eleven to twelve activities, 23% (n=199) participated in thirteen to fourteen activities and 28% (n=236) participated in fifteen or more activities.

As the respondents grew in age, they participated in fewer activities. Table 12 shows that 21% (n=107) of persons in the 62 to 74 age group participated in a maximum of ten activities this figure compares to 52% (n=34) of the 85+ group. Participation in fifteen or more activities on the other hand, was common to 36% (n=178) of the group aged 62-74 compared to thirteen percent (n=8) of the persons aged 85+

With respect to eight of the 21 activities examined, no differences in participation were identified across age groups. These activities included taking walks, going for drives, attending church, participating in hobbies, reading, phoning family, visiting family and receiving visits from friends.

Differences in participation across age groups were found in relation to the remaining thirteen activities, namely, working in the garden, participating in clubs, attending the theatre, going to sports events, phoning friends, visiting family, doing volunteer work, helping out at election time, travelling and entertaining. Increased age accompanied decreased participation in each activity. Refer to Table 13.

Ninety-four percent (n=790) of the total sample reported barriers which they claimed kept them from participating to the extent they desired. The barriers cited differed across age groups. Table 14 shows that the most frequent barriers reported by the respondents in the 85+ age were, in order of prevalence, health, distance, absence of companions, absence of transportation and feeling of being too old. The most prevalent barriers cited by the respondents in the 62-74 age group were being too busy, health, expense, and distance.

The characteristics of the respondents who reported selected barriers were examined. (Refer to the report entitled: Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and the Barriers to Their Participation for a complete description of these characteristics). Age figured as a significant discriminating factor in the citation of six barriers: health, being too busy, expense, transportation, being too old, and the absence of companions. As the respondents aged, they had a greater tendency to cite health, transportation, being too old, and the absence of companions as barriers, and less likely to report that being too busy and expense kept them from participating to the extent they desired. (Refer to Tables 15-20).

5. HEALTH STATUS

The relationship of age and health status is the focus of this section. In that health status is a multidimensional concept, it is being measured by seven variables including:

a) subjective rating of health
b) comparison of health with five years previous
c) extent to which health conditions stand in the way of doing things persons want to do
d) number and type of health conditions
e) number and type of interfering health conditions
f) mobility
g) use of assistive devices

All of the data presented is based on self-reports.

The respondents' subjective rating of health varied by age group. Table 21 shows that with increasing age, the respondents tended to rate their health lower. The group who considered their health to be good or excellent was made up of close to two-thirds (n=326) of the persons aged 62-74 and one-half (n=32) of the persons aged 85+. Among the respondents who defined their health as fair or poor, seven percent (n=37) were aged 62-74 and sixteen percent (n=10) were aged 85+.

Advancing age was accompanied by reports of a deterioration in health over a five year period. Table 22 illustrates that a deterioration in health was reported by 32% (n=64) of the 62-74 age group and 47% (n=30) of the 85+ group. An improvement in health, on the other hand, was reported twice as often by the respondents aged 62-74 (11%, n=53) as by the respondents aged 85+ (7%, n=5).

Despite the fact that the majority of respondents across age groups considered their health to be good or excellent, the majority of respondents in each age group reported that their health interfered with their performance of day to day activities. The older respondents were more likely than the younger respondents to consider health an interfering factor. Table 23 reveals a fourteen percentage point difference (56%, n=284 of the 62-74 age group compared to 70%, n=44 of the 85+ age group) in the number of respondents who reported health as an interfering factor.

The respondents' health conditions were documented. All respondents were read a list of 31 conditions and were asked to indicate if a physician had ever told them they had the condition. The conditions included arthritis, heart trouble, cancer, dizziness, diabetes, etc. The number of health conditions reported ranged from zero through 18 with a mean of 3.5. Seven percent (n=63) of the respondents reported no conditions, 29% (n=246) reported one to two conditions; thirty percent (n=253) identified three to four conditions; seventeen percent (n=143) reported five to six conditions and sixteen percent (n=138) reported seven or more conditions. No significant differences across age groups were found in the number of reported conditions.

The mean number of conditions reported to interfere with day to day activities was 1.5. Twenty-nine percent (n=247) of the respondents reported no interfering conditions; nineteen percent (n=162) reported one interfering condition, 26% (n=216) reported two to three interfering conditions and 26% (n=218) reported four or more interfering conditions. The number of interfering conditions reported did not differ significantly across age groups.

The ability of the respondents to walk around the average block was the principal measure of mobility in this survey. Ninety percent (n=762) of the persons interviewed said they were able to walk the block. However, differences were found among age groups such that with advancing age the ability to walk around the block decreased. The respondents able to walk around the block included 94% (n=473) of those aged 62-74 compared to 69% (n=44) of those aged 85+. Refer to Table 24.

A small proportion of the respondents reported using assistive devices. The most frequently used devices were canes (14%, n=115) crutches, (3%, n=16) and walkers (3%, n=15). Two percent (n=11) of the respondents used wheelchairs. The use of canes differed across age groups such that with increasing age canes were more likely to be used. Canes were used by eight percent (n=41) of the 62-74 age group and 38% (n=24) of the 85+ group. See Table 25.

6. USE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Visits to family doctors and specialists and hospitalizations were the basis for assessing the respondents' use of the health care system. Just as differences were found across age groups in the health status of the respondents, differences across age groups were evident in the use of the health care system. The significant differences were found in relation to visits with family doctors and hospitalizations. Visits to specialists did not differ by age.

During the year prior to being interviewed the proportion of respondents who had been seen by their family doctor ranged from a low of 92% (n=458) of the 62-74 age group to a high of 96% (n=59) of the 85+ group. Table 26 illustrates that four or more visits to family doctors were made by 58% (n=284) of the respondents aged 62 to 74 compared to 70% (n=42) of the respondents aged 85+.

Increasing age was also associated with a greater likelihood of being hospitalized. Table 27 shows that hospitalizations were more frequent among the 85+ group (25%, n=16) than the group aged 62 to 74 (17%, n=86). It is noteworthy that the respondents in the 85+ age group spent a longer period of time in the hospital than the younger respondents. Hospitalizations of eight or more days were common to fourteen percent (n=9) of the respondents aged 85+ compared to ten percent (n=50) of the persons aged 62 to 74. No significant differences across age groups were found in the number of hospital admissions.

7. TYPE OF DISABILITIES AND RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE

The respondents' ability to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items from the OARS instrumental and physical activity of daily living (ADLS) scales. These scales are commonly employed to assess the older persons' capability of performing ADLS. In using the scales nine ADLS are measured. They include using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. The respondents who indicated difficulty with or an inability to carry out the activities were considered to have disabilities.

For each of the nine ADLS assessed, increasing age was found to be associated with a greater likelihood of having a disability. Table 28 illustrates that irrespective of age the most frequent disabilities reported related to housework and shopping. In the 85+ group over fifteen percent of the respondents had disabilities associated with using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing housework, handling money, and bathing.

The number of disabilities reported increased as the respondents age increased. Table 29 shows that fully 78% (n=391) of the respondents aged 62-74 had no disabilities. This figure corresponds to 28% (n=18) of the respondents aged 85+. Three or more disabilities were reported by six percent (n=28) of the 62 to 74 age group and 28% (n=18) of the 85+ group.

In view of the number of disabilities reported, particularly by the older respondents it was not unexpected to find that a large number of respondents received assistance with day to day activities. The receipt of assistance with 22 activities was assessed. Included were activities in the home such as housework, meal preparation and laundry, activities outside of the home like yardwork, shopping, and banking and personal care activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.

Table 30 illustrates that with age, the respondents had a greater likelihood of receiving assistance. Seventy-nine percent (n=50) of the respondents aged 85+ received assistance compared to 39% (n=197) of the respondents aged 62-74. The older respondents also received a greater quantity of assistance than the younger respondents. Six percent (n=30) of the persons aged 62 to 74 received help with five or more activities in comparison to 39% (n=25) of the 85+ group.

The activities with which assistance was received are listed on Table 31. Irrespective of the activity, increasing age accompanied greater likelihood of receiving assistance. Over one-third of the respondents in the 85+ age group received assistance with yardwork (62%, n=31), heavy housework (52%, n=32), shopping (48%, n=30), and laundry (42%, n=26). At least one-quarter of the 85+ group had help with light housework (32%, n=20), house repairs (30%, n=16), banking (26%, n=16), and cutting toenails (25%, n=16). The respondents aged 62 to 74 received most help with yardwork (25%, n=112), heavy housework (19%, n=96) and house repairs (13%, n=59).

8. PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE

The sources of assistance used by the respondents were recorded and significant differences were found across age groups. Table 32 illustrates that children provided the largest proportion of assistance to both the respondents in the 62 to 74 age group and the respondents in the 75 to 84 group. In contrast, the respondents in the 85+ group received the largest proportion of assistance from family other than children or spouses.

Although only a minimal amount (three percent or less) of all assistance came from community agencies, the most likely users of these agencies were the oldest respondents. Community agencies were used by two percent (n=8) of the persons aged 62 to 74, three percent (n=8) of the respondents 75 to 84 and eight percent (n=5) of persons in the 85+ age group.

Information was gathered on the use of five particular agencies, namely, Visting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. The likelihood of using these agencies increased as the respondents aged. During the year prior to being interviewed, at least one agency was used by five percent (n=24) of the respondents aged 62 to 74, sixteen percent (n=43) of the persons between the age of 75 and 84 and fully 25% (n=16) of the 85+ group.

The agencies were not used with equal frequency. The agency used by the largest number of respondents was Visiting Nurses followed by Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. As the respondents aged, they were more likely to use Visiting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers and Meals on Wheels. Table 33 shows that these agencies were used by a minimum of four times more respondents in the 85+ age group than the respondents in the 62 to 74 group.

9. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The respondents were asked if they could use any or any additional (hereafter additional) assistance with the 22 day to day activities discussed above. It is noteworthy that the number of respondents who indicated additional requests did not differ significantly by age. Requests came from 24% (n=122) of the respondents aged 62 to 74, 26% (n=72) of the respondents aged 65 to 74 and eighteen percent (n=11) of the 85+ group.

The type of additional assistance requested by the respondents is indicated on Table 34. The only statistically significant difference across age groups was found in relation to meal preparation. With advancing age, requests for additional assistance increased. Requests came from one percent (n=7) of the respondents aged 62 to 74 and seven percent (n=4) of the persons aged 85+. The significance of this relationship should be considered with caution in light of the small number of respondents who made these requests.

Although the requests for additional assistance with the other activities did not differ significantly across age groups, those made by the 85+ group are worthy of note. The percentage of respondents aged 85+ who requested additional assistance ranged from a low of zero for activities including climbing stairs, mobility at home, mending, paying bills, financial assistance, dressing and taking medication to a high of ten percent (n=6) for light housework. The most prevalent requests for additional assistance by this group pertained to yardwork (8%, n=4), meal preparation (7%, n=4), heavy housework (5%, n=3), and cutting toenails (5%, n=3).

Most of the respondents between the ages of 62 and 74 who requested additional assistance wanted help with activities in the home, specifically, with heavy housework (11%, n=56), house repairs (8%, n=37), and light housework (6%, n=31). Some requests for additional assistance pertained to activities outside of the home such as yardwork (8%, n=35).

10. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

The possibility exists for all older persons who reside in their own homes that a time may come when they are unable to care for their own needs. If that time does come, the older persons may be faced with finding a suitable arrangement to meet their impending requirements. In this survey the respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing that might interest them. The question was posed as such..."If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to care for your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements:

- moving in with family
- moving in with friends
- staying home with community services to assist
- moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (hereinafter supportive housing arrangement)

The interest expressed by the respondents in each housing option is illustrated on Table 35. Some interesting differences were found across age groups. The most popular housing option indicated by the respondents in both the 62 to 74 and the 75 to 84 age group was moving into a supportive housing arrangement. In contrast, the respondents aged 85+ expressed most interest (62%) in staying home with the assistance of community services.

When each option was examined on its own, age discriminated among groups in only one instance, specifically, the interest in moving in with members of the family. As the respondents aged, their interest in this option increased. Interest was voiced by fifteen percent (n=68) of the 62 to 74 age group compared to 33% (n=17) of the 85+ group.

11. TRANSPORTATION

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated with those modes were delineated in the survey. This section concentrates on the relationship between age and transportation use.

Tables 36, 37, and 38 show that when going shopping, to medical appointments and to social occasions the respondents tended to travel by the same mode of transportation. It is significant to note that the largest proportion (a minimum of 39%) of the respondents aged 85+ were driven by relatives other than spouses to all activities. The most significant proportion (a minimum of 30%) of the respondents in the younger age groups drove themselves to the activities.

A number of distinct patterns were discerned in the use of transportation across age groups. With advancing age, the respondents were more likely to walk to the activities, less likely to drive themselves, less likely to be driven by their spouse, and more likely to be driven by relatives.

Nine percent (n=76) of the respondents indicated that transportation to these activities was a problem for them. However, no statistically significant differences across age groups were found in the number of persons reporting these problems. As well, the particular transportation problems cited did not differ significantly across age groups. For a discussion of the problems cited, refer to the report entitled Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.

Separate questions were devoted to the respondents' general use of public transportation and taxis. Fifty percent (n=423) of the total sample reported using public transportation and 32% (n=27) used taxis. No statistically significant differences across age groups were found in the use of either mode. Furthermore, the requirements for assistance in using these modes did not vary by age.

Information was gathered on the respondents' desires for additional assistance with transportation. The respondents were asked: "If you could get further assistance with transportation, would you be interested in having the assistance?" Close to one-fifth (19%, n=155) of the respondents answered in the affirmative and indicated the type of assistance they wanted. Thirty-five percent (n=52) wanted the assistance of an accompany individual when travelling by public or private transportation. Thirty-five percent (n=54) wanted a transportation service that would pick them up at home. A further 31% (n=45) expressed a desire for financial assistance with taxis. Age did not discriminate among groups in the type of assistance requested.

Eleven percent (n=92) of the total sample indicated that their residence was too far from transportation. The respondents making this claim did not differ by age.

Close to one-third (n=258) of the respondents reported that should additional income be available to them, they would spend it on transportation. This attitude was more common among the younger respondents than among those who were older. Table 39 shows that the respondents who stated an interest in allocating additional income on transportation included 37% (n=183) of the 62 to 74 age group, 25% (n=66) of the 75 to 84 age group and fifteen percent (n=9) of the group aged 85+.

12. CONCLUSION

This report has concentrated on the special characteristics of three groups of persons interviewed during the USCO survey: persons between the ages of 62 and 74, persons aged 75 to 84 and persons aged 85+. The primary concern of this paper has been with the respondents aged 85+. The results of the data analysis revealed that the respondents in each age group were distinguishable by their demographic characteristics, health status, type of disabilities, receipt of assistance, sources of assistance, housing preferences and use of transportation.

The respondents aged 85+ had well defined characteristics:

- They made up seven percent of the sample. In 1982 within the Province of Ontario persons aged 85+ numbered nine percent of the population.

- Geographically, they were more highly concentrated in the rural areas than in the five urban communities. (One must be aware of the fact that the response rate was higher in the rural areas (70%) than in the remaining communities).

- They were likely to be widowed.

- Their income was lower than the income of the respondents in the other age groups; 54% of the respondents aged 85+ had monthly incomes below $600.

- They had fewer years of formal education than the remaining respondents; 56% had less than nine years of schooling.

- They were unlikely to be employed.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to reside in apartments, to rent their housing and to live alone.

- They visited family and friends least frequently, and they had phone contact with friends least frequently.

- They participated in the fewest number of recreational activities.

- They were the least likely of the three groups to work in the garden, participate in clubs, attend the theatre, go to sports events, phone friends, visit family, visit friends, participate in sports, play cards, do volunteer work, help out at election time, travel and entertain.

- They were most likely to cite the following barriers to their recreational participation: health, transportation, absence of companions, and feeling of being too old.

- They perceived their health to be poorer than the respondents in the other age groups.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to report a deterioriation in health over a five year period.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to report that their health interfered with their ability to carry out day to day activities.

- Their mobility was more highly restricted than those in the other groups.

- They were seen more frequently by family physicians than the other respondents.

- They had a greater likelihood of being hospitalized, and once hospitalized they remained in the hospital for a longer period of time.

- They were more likely than the other respondents to report difficulty with or an inability to use the telephone, shop, prepare meals, do heavy housework, handle money, dress, take care of their own appearance, get in and out of bed and bathe.

- They reported a greater number of disabilities related to ADLS than the respondents in the other groups.

- They were more likely to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities and they received a greater quantity of assistance.

- They received the largest proportion of assistance from family other than children or spouses.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to receive the assistance of community agencies.

- They were more likely than the other respondents to voice requests for additional assistance with meal preparation.

- They expressed most interest in staying at home with the assistance of community services should they be unable to care for their own needs.

- When going shopping, to medical appointments and to social occasions they were more likely to walk, less likely to drive themselves, less likely to be driven by their spouses and more likely to be driven by relatives than the other respondents.

The findings presented above reveal that the persons aged 85+ in the sample were characterized by disproportionate difficulty in carrying out day to day activities, disproportionate receipt of assistance and disproportionate reliance on other individuals for help. The findings highlight the capability of these individuals in either meeting their own requirements or arranging to have their requirements for assistance met. It is noteworthy that the respondents in the 85+ age group were the least likely of all respondents to voice requests for additional assistance.

Despite the fact that the vast majority of respondents in the oldest age group requested no additional assistance, eighteen percent did request assistance. Most of the requests made were for assistance with household tasks. Few requests pertained to assistance with personal care. Judging from these requests, the largest proportion of persons aged 85+ are not in immediate jeopardy of losing their ability to remain within their own homes. The persons at highest risk are those who have requests that remain unfulfilled for lengthy periods of time, those who become unable to arrange for adequate supportive assistance, those whose income does not allow them to purchase extra services should they be required and those whose health deterioriates to the point of requiring more intensive medical care.

With the aging of Ontario's population, the 85+ group will grow and their requirements for assistance will increase. If these individuals are to remain in the community, they require close monitoring. Planning for their service needs demands a continuing and a systematic collection of demographic and disability information. This information is not optional, but essential to the work carried out by persons responsible for public policy, service agency personnel and clinicians working with elderly persons.

TABLE 1: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY AREA
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

AREA	AGE GROUP							
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+		TOTAL*	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Cookstown/Athens/ Bruce Mines	(93)	55	(56)	33	(19)	12	(168)	100
Brockville	(30)	63	(15)	31	(3)	6	(48)	100
Penetanguishene	(55)	55	(38)	38	(7)	7	(100)	100
Sault Ste. Marie	(67)	61	(37)	34	(6)	5	(110)	100
Windsor	(90)	59	(52)	34	(11)	7	(153)	100
Toronto	(168)	64	(78)	30	(18)	6	(264)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 2: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MARITAL STATUS	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Single	(38)	8	(17)	5	(5)	8
Married	(333)	66	(125)	46	(15)	24
Widowed	(105)	21	(126)	46	(43)	68
Divorced/ Separated	(26)	5	(7)	3	(0)	0
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(275)	100	(63)	100

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 3: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY MONTHLY INCOME
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MONTHLY INCOME	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
$000-$599	(84)	18	(103)	40	(29)	54
$600-$799	(63)	13	(44)	17	(9)	17
$800-$999	(95)	20	(46)	18	(6)	11
$1,000+	(230)	49	(66)	25	(10)	18
TOTAL*	(472)	100	(259)	100	(54)	100

Chi Square = 77.14 $P < .01$

*61 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0 - 8	(180)	37	(142)	52	(35)	56
9 - 12	(213)	44	(90)	33	(20)	31
13+	(93)	19	(40)	15	(8)	13
TOTAL*	(486)	100	(272)	100	(63)	100

Chi Square = 20.41 $P < .01$

*25 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Employed	(57)	11	(14)	5	(2)	3
Not Employed	(446)	89	(262)	95	(61)	97
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

* 4 Missing Observations

TABLE 6: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(380)	77	(180)	66	(44)	70
Apartment	(114)	23	(93)	34	(19)	30
TOTAL*	(494)	100	(273)	100	(63)	100

Chi Square = 11.01 $P < .01$

*16 Missing Observations

TABLE 7: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING OWNERSHIP (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING OWNERSHIP	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own	(368)	73	(165)	60	(34)	53
Rent	(134)	27	(111)	40	(30)	47
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 45.95 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 8: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVE ALONE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

LIVING SITUATION	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(113)	23	(115)	42	(24)	38
Lives With Others	(390)	77	(161)	58	(40)	62
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 33.26 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 9: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THEY VISIT FAMILY MEMBERS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FAMILY	AGE GROUP 62 - 74 (N)	%	75 - 84 (N)	%	85+ (N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(346)	69	(170)	63	(29)	48
Less Than Once Per Month	(154)	31	(98)	37	(31)	52
TOTAL*	(500)	100	(268)	100	(60)	100

Chi Square = 11.37 $P < .01$

*18 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT WITH FRIENDS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Week	(357)	72	(174)	64	(32)	53
One To Three Times Per Month	(80)	16	(47)	17	(10)	16
Less Than Once Per Month	(62)	12	(52)	19	(19)	31
TOTAL*	(499)	100	(273)	100	(61)	100

Chi Square = 18.32 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FRIENDS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(363)	73	(173)	63	(21)	35
Less Than Once Per Month	(138)	27	(100)	37	(39)	65
TOTAL*	(501)	100	(273)	100	(60)	100

Chi Square = 36.02 $P < .01$

*12 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES	AGE GROUP 62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
1 - 10	(107)	21	(90)	33	(34)	52
11 - 12	(104)	20	(60)	22	(14)	22
13 - 14	(114)	23	(77)	28	(8)	13
15+	(178)	36	(49)	17	(8)	13
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 56.64 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 13: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE[1] OF RESPONDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SELECTED LEISURE ACTIVITIES BY AGE GROUP

ACTIVITY	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N = 503		N = 276		N = 64	
Gardening	(317)	63	(136)	50	(25)	39
Participating In Clubs	(217)	44	(92)	34	(18)	29
Attending The Theatre	(212)	42	(73)	27	(7)	11
Going To Sports Events	(151)	30	(47)	17	(7)	11
Phoning Friends	(415)	83	(225)	82	(45)	70
Visiting Family	(457)	91	(232)	86	(46)	74
Visiting Friends	(418)	83	(209)	76	(35)	56
Participating In Sports	(116)	23	(36)	13	(1)	2
Playing Cards	(344)	69	(169)	62	(28)	44
Doing Volunteer Work	(155)	31	(62)	23	(10)	16
Helping Out At Election Time	(67)	14	(20)	7	(5)	8
Travelling	(351)	70	(157)	57	(21)	33
Entertaining	(324)	65	(154)	56	(48)	30

[1] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 14: BARRIERS IDENTIFIED TO PARTICIPATION (PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP		
	62 - 74 N = 503	75 - 84 N = 276	85+ N = 64
Respondents' Health Problems	18%	33%	36%
Respondents Busy	19%	8%	2%
Too Expensive	17%	10%	6%
Distance	8%	6%	9%
No Companions	5%	9%	9%
No Transportation	4%	6%	8%
Others Busy	5%	4%	4%
Lazy	4%	5%	1%
Family Has Health Problems	5%	2%	2%
No Opportunities Available	3%	4%	2%
Not Sure How To Go About It	3%	2%	1%
Feeling Of Being Too Old	1%	2%	8%
Bad Weather	1%	1%	1%
Fearful	1%	1%	1%
Don't Know	1%	1%	1%
Other	5%	6%	9%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 15: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED HEALTH AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Health As a Barrier	(284)	57	(127)	46	(23)	36
Did Cite Health As a Barrier	(211)	43	(147)	54	(41)	64
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 26.47 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 16: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED TRANSPORTATION AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Transportation As Barrier	(430)	87	(218)	80	(49)	77
Did Cite Transportation As Barrier	(65)	13	(56)	20	(15)	23
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 16.70 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 17: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED "BEING TOO OLD" AS A BARRIER
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Being Too Old	(482)	97	(252)	92	(50)	78
Did Cite Being Too Old	(13)	3	(22)	8	(14)	22
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 48.15 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 18: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED THE ABSENCE OF COMPANIONS AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite No Companions	(380)	77	(199)	73	(42)	66
Did Cite No Companions	(115)	23	(75)	27	(22)	34
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 11.32 $P < .05$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 19: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED "BEING TOO BUSY" AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Being Too Busy	(292)	59	(213)	78	(59)	92
Did Cite Being Too Busy	(203)	41	(61)	22	(5)	8
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 49.87 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 20: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED EXPENSE AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Expense As a Barrier	(242)	49	(186)	68	(54)	84
Did Cite Expense As a Barrier	(253)	51	(88)	32	(10)	16
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 48.44 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 21: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR SUBJECTIVE RATING OF HEALTH
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

RATING	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Excellent	(87)	17	(43)	15	(6)	10
Good	(239)	48	(117)	43	(26)	41
Fair	(140)	28	(90)	32	(21)	33
Poor	(37)	7	(26)	10	(10)	16
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

Tau = .073 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 22: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY A COMPARISON OF THEIR PRESENT HEALTH WITH FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMPARISON OF HEALTH	AGE GROUP 62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Better	(53)	11	(26)	10	(5)	7
About The Same	(286)	57	(155)	56	(29)	46
Worse	(164)	32	(95)	34	(30)	47
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Tau = .06 $P < .05$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 23: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY AN EVALUATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS ACTIVITIES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not At All	(219)	44	(92)	34	(19)	30
A Little	(195)	39	(120)	43	(24)	38
A Great Deal	(89)	17	(64)	23	(20)	32
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

Tau = .11 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 24: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR ABILITY TO WALK AROUND THE AVERAGE BLOCK (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ABILITY TO WALK AROUND AVERAGE BLOCK	AGE GROUP 62 - 74 (N)	%	75 - 84 (N)	%	85+ (N)	%
Able	(473)	94	(245)	88	(44)	69
Unable	(29)	6	(31)	12	(20)	31
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 44.26 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 25: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR USE OF CANES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

USE OF CANES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Use Canes	(461)	92	(226)	88	(39)	38
Used Canes	(41)	8	(49)	12	(24)	62
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(275)	100	(63)	100

Chi Square = 53.41 $P < .01$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 26: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF TIMES THEY HAD BEEN SEEN BY THEIR FAMILY DOCTOR OVER A YEAR'S PERIOD (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF TIMES FAMILY DOCTOR WAS SEEN	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(42)	8	(18)	6	(3)	4
1	(67)	13	(26)	9	(9)	14
2-3	(107)	21	(52)	19	(8)	12
4+	(284)	58	(176)	66	(42)	70
TOTAL*	(500)	100	(272)	100	(62)	100

*12 Missing Observations

TABLE 27: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF DAYS THEY SPENT IN THE HOSPITAL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT IN HOSPITAL	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(416)	83	(216)	79	(48)	75
1-7	(36)	7	(23)	8	(7)	11
8+	(50)	10	(35)	13	(9)	14
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Tau = .06 $P < .05$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 28: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPE OF DISABILITIES* REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Use Telephone	(19)	4	(28)	10	(11)	17
Shopping	(45)	9	(57)	21	(27)	44
Prepare Meals	(20)	4	(33)	12	(10)	16
Heavy Housework	(82)	16	(71)	26	(34)	54
Handle Money	(19)	4	(24)	9	(13)	21
Dress	(3)	1	(7)	3	(4)	6
Take Care Of Appearance	(2)	1	(8)	3	(4)	6
Get In And Out Of Bed	(2)	1	(7)	3	(4)	6
Bath	(18)	4	(35)	13	(19)	30

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*Disability is here defined as difficulty in carrying out the activity or the inability to do the activity.

TABLE 29: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF DISABILITIES REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DISABILITIES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(391)	78	(173)	63	(18)	28
1-2	(84)	16	(65)	24	(28)	44
3+	(28)	6	(38)	13	(18)	28
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Tau = .25 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 30: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(306)	61	(111)	40	(13)	21
1	(85)	17	(60)	22	(8)	13
2-4	(82)	16	(68)	25	(17)	27
5+	(30)	6	(37)	13	(25)	39
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

Tau = .26 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 31: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(39)	8	(39)	14	(20)	32
Heavy Housework	(96)	19	(85)	31	(32)	52
Making a Cup of Tea	(5)	1	(8)	3	(6)	10
Meal Preparation	(9)	2	(17)	6	(13)	21
Laundry	(22)	4	(36)	13	(26)	42
House Repairs	(59)	13	(34)	13	(16)	30
Climbing Stairs	(8)	2	(9)	3	(6)	10
Mobility at Home	(4)	1	(2)	1	(3)	5
Using the Telephone	(6)	1	(8)	3	(6)	10
Mending	(8)	2	(8)	3	(10)	16
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(112)	25	(91)	37	(31)	62
Shopping	(35)	7	(67)	24	(30)	48
Going Out in Good Weather	(7)	1	(8)	3	(7)	12
Going Out in Bad Weather	(21)	4	(25)	9	(13)	23
Banking	(15)	3	(34)	12	(16)	26
Paying Bills	(12)	2	(29)	11	(14)	23
Financial Assistance	(6)	1	(10)	4	(5)	8
PERSONAL						
Getting In and Out of Bed	(4)	1	(3)	1	(3)	5
Bathing	(6)	1	(7)	3	(10)	16
Dressing	(4)	1	(2)	1	(3)	5
Cutting Toenails	(27)	5	(34)	12	(16)	25
Taking Medication	(5)	1	(7)	3	(5)	8

TABLE 32: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES ACROSS AGE GROUPS

SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE	AGE GROUP		
	62 - 74	75 - 84	85+
Daughter	13%	17%	22%
Son	13%	12%	10%
Other Family	14%	22%	33%
Spouse	23%	15%	8%
Neighbour/Friend	10%	10%	6%
Community Agency	2%	2%	3%
Paid Help	25%	21%	16%
Other	0%	1%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 33: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS WHO USED SPECIFIC COMMUNITY AGENCIES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMMUNITY AGENCY	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Visiting Nurse	(21)	4	(34)	12	(11)	17
Red Cross Homemaker	(9)	2	(14)	5	(9)	14
Meals On Wheels	(2)	1	(6)	2	(3)	5

TABLE 34: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY MADE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(31)	6	(16)	6	(6)	10
Heavy Housework	(56)	11	(36)	13	(3)	5
Making a Cup of Tea	(2)	1	(2)	1	(1)	2
Meal Preparation	(7)	1	(10)	4	(4)	7
Laundry	(6)	1	(7)	3	(1)	2
House Repairs	(37)	8	(21)	8	(2)	4
Climbing Stairs	(8)	2	(2)	1	(0)	0
Mobility at Home	(2)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0
Using the Telephone	(1)	1	(2)	1	(2)	3
Mending	(3)	1	(5)	2	(0)	0
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(35)	8	(31)	13	(4)	8
Shopping	(14)	3	(12)	4	(1)	2
Going Out in Good Weather	(2)	1	(0)	0	(1)	2
Going Out in Bad Weather	(10)	2	(7)	3	(2)	4
Banking	(2)	1	(6)	2	(1)	2
Paying Bills	(3)	1	(2)	1	(0)	0
Financial Assistance	(6)	1	(1)	1	(0)	0
PERSONAL						
Getting In and Out of Bed	(0)	0	(1)	1	(2)	3
Bathing	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	2
Dressing	(1)	1	(1)	1	(0)	0
Cutting Toenails	(19)	4	(18)	7	(3)	5
Taking Medication	(1)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0

TABLE 35: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE GROUP

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
*Moving In With Family[1]	(68)	15	(48)	19	(17)	33
Moving In With Friends[2]	(13)	3	(9)	3	(2)	4
Staying Home With Community Services To Assist[3]	(283)	62	(150)	59	(34)	62
Staying Home With Family/Friends To Assist[4]	(246)	52	(146)	56	(31)	56
Supportive Housing Arrangement[5]	(342)	71	(176)	67	(30)	53

*Chi Square = 11.32 $P < .01$

[1] 82 Missing Observations
[2] 52 Missing Observations
[3] 81 Missing Observations
[4] 57 Missing Observations
[5] 47 Missing Observations

TABLE 36: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR SHOPPING
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(79)	16	(67)	26	(18)	34
Drive Self	(254)	52	(88)	34	(4)	8
Driven By Spouse	(66)	14	(23)	9	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(34)	7	(46)	18	(20)	39
Driven By Friends	(7)	1	(7)	2	(4)	8
Taxi	(8)	2	(6)	2	(2)	4
Public Transportation	(40)	8	(22)	8	(3)	5
Community Agency	(0)	0	(3)	1	(1)	2
TOTAL*	(488)	100	(262)	100	(52)	100

* 44 Missing Observations

TABLE 37: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(50)	10	(45)	17	(14)	24
Drive Self	(247)	50	(79)	30	(3)	5
Driven By Spouse	(61)	12	(24)	9	(1)	2
Driven By Relatives	(37)	8	(52)	20	(23)	40
Driven By Friends	(7)	1	(10)	4	(3)	5
Taxi	(21)	4	(9)	3	(6)	11
Public Transportation	(66)	13	(41)	15	(3)	5
Community Agency	(2)	2	(7)	2	(4)	8
TOTAL*	(491)	100	(267)	100	(57)	100

* 31 Missing Observations

TABLE 38: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(34)	8	(41)	18	(11)	31
Drive Self	(247)	56	(77)	34	(2)	6
Driven By Spouse	(61)	14	(20)	8	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(27)	6	(38)	17	(15)	42
Driven By Friends	(21)	5	(27)	12	(4)	11
Taxi	(6)	1	(3)	1	(2)	5
Public Transportation	(49)	10	(22)	9	(2)	5
Community Agency	(0)	0	(2)	1	(0)	0
TOTAL*	(445)	100	(230)	100	(36)	100

* 135 Missing Observations

TABLE 39: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY WOULD SPEND ADDITIONAL INCOME ON TRANSPORTATION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Would Spend The Income	(183)	37	(66)	25	(9)	15
Would Not Spend The Income	(305)	63	(202)	75	(51)	85
TOTAL*	(488)	100	(268)	100	(60)	100

Chi Square = 21.53 $P < .01$

*30 Missing Observations

APPENDIX

OTHER PAPERS IN USCO SERIES

The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

Within the series, seven papers are issue oriented:

1. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Health Status and Use of the Health Care System.
2. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance.
3. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation as Volunteers and Their Interest in Volunteerism.
4. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.
5. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services.
6. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Current Housing Situation and Their Interest in Various Housing Options.
7. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and The Barriers to Their Participation.

Six papers provide profiles of subgroups within the population surveyed:

8. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experience of Those Who are Childless.
9. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Age Differences With Particular Focus on Persons Aged 85+.
10. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experiences of Those Who Are Frail.
11. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Differences By Marital Status With Particular Focus on Those Who Are Single.

12. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Income Group Differences.
13. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Rural-Urban Differences.

The series also includes:

14. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Study Methodology: a paper outlining the background of the study and the research methods employed.
15. Elderly Residents in Ontario: An Overview: a paper summarizing the findings and content of the other fourteen papers in the series.

The intention is that each of the fifteen papers in the series can be studied on its own but, also that the complete series will offer continuity and comprehensive information in an accessible form.

Additional copies of this report, and others in the series, are available in person from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario;

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GLOSSARY

Chi Square:	a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.
Cleaning:	a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).
Coding:	a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.
Community Agency/ Service:	all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.
Cross Tabulations:	a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.
Data:	the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.
Dependent Variable:	the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.
Disability:	the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)
Frail:	reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies:	descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.
Friendly Visiting:	a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.
G.I.S.:	Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.
GAINS-A:	Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.
Health Care System:	family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.
Home Care:	a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.
Independent Variables:	the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.
Institutional Settings:	nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.
Instrument:	the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.
Interfering Health Conditions:	health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.
Interview Schedule:	the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity:	an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.
Mean ($\bar{X}$):	the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.
Missing Observations:	instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.
Multiple Response:	a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.
OARS ADL Scale:	specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).
Old Age Security Data Base:	a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension and the Spouse's Allowance.
Paid Help:	distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.
Personal Care Activities:	activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.
Pretest:	the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married:	individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.
Random Sample:	a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.
Represenativeness:	the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.
S.D.:	a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.
Sample:	part of the population at large, selected for study.
Sample Frame:	the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.
Significant Differences:	determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.
Single:	persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.
Social Contacts:	visits with friends and family or in person.
Socio-Economic:	characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.
Stratified Sample:	a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements:	a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.
Tau:	Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.
Variable:	refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.
Volunteer:	a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

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Housing

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:
THEIR CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION AND THEIR INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs
Seniors Secretariat
September, 1985

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This report is part of a series on the USCO project. The study has involved a variety of individuals, groups and government departments at many levels. The eclectic nature of the study necessitated a variety of resources and it is apparent that the study has benefitted from such support.

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Finally, this study could never have been accomplished without the co-operation of the 846 persons whom we interviewed. I only hope that this study sensitively and accurately represents their experience.

Arlene Hoffman, Ph.D.
Research Consultant

SUMMARY

The subject of this paper is the housing situation and preferences of the 846 persons who were interviewed for the USCO survey. Under consideration are the respondents' housing type, living mates, satisfaction with current housing, and interest in a variety of housing options.

The findings of the study revealed that the majority (67%) of respondents owned the residence within which they lived and that the majority (72%) lived in houses. Nine percent of the respondents resided in apartments for senior citizens. The respondents who resided in houses differed from those who resided in apartments or other types of housing by their age, sex, marital status and income. The respondents most likely to reside in houses were between the ages of 62 to 74, male, married, and with monthly incomes above $999.

Over two-thirds (70%) of the respondents lived with other persons and the majority (84%) of these individuals lived with one other person. Eighty-one percent (n=474) of the persons living with others lived with spouses; nineteen percent lived with children; four percent lived with siblings; four percent lived with other relatives and one percent lived with friends.

The persons who lived alone were distinguished from those who lived with others by the fact that they were residents of urban areas more frequently than rural areas, were slightly older (a mean age of 75 compared to a mean age of 73 for the persons living with others) and had lower monthly incomes.

The respondents were asked whether their residence was too large, too far from services, too far from family, too far from friends or too far from transportation. More than 80% of the respondents indicated that their residence did not fall into any of these categories.

A very small proportion (5%) of the respondents indicated plans to move in the future and of those who did, the majority said their reasons for moving was the difficulty they had maintaining their home. Forty percent of the persons with plans to move said they would be moving into a senior citizens apartment complex.

The respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing they would be interested in should they have difficulty caring for their needs. They were presented with seven housing options. Fifty-seven percent indicated an interest in staying home with community services to assist, 47% wanted to move into a housing project where some services are available, 45% showed a desire in moving into a home for elderly persons, 44% said they were interested in staying home with family to assist, 36% indicated an interest in staying home with friends to assist, 16% revealed an interest in moving in with members of the family, and 3% said they were interested in moving in with friends.

The respondents expressed least interest in relying upon family members or friends for assistance, whether it be staying at home and receiving assistance from them, or moving in with them. Even though family and friends provided the respondents with the bulk of assistance, the respondents indicated that should they require more assistance, they would prefer to receive the assistance from formal services rather than from family and friends.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey.[1] The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to consider the current housing situation of the 846 respondents and the type of housing situation they would be interested in should they find it difficult to care for their own needs. Essential to this examination is a delineation of both the characteristics of the persons who live in differing housing environments and the characteristics of the persons who express interest in various housing alternatives. An underlying assumption of this inquiry is that an understanding of the housing or shelter requirements of older persons necessitates an understanding of the community, the family and the requirements these individuals have for assistance.

2. THE CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

At the time of the interview, the majority of respondents (72%, n=595) resided in houses. Just over one-quarter (27%, n=225) lived in apartments and one percent (n=11) were housed in boarding accommodations or rented rooms. Nine percent (n=76) of the respondents resided in apartments designated for senior citizens.

The type of housing within which the respondents resided varied by age, sex, marital status and income. Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents within each age group resided in houses. Comparing age groups, the persons most likely to reside in houses were between the ages of 62 to 74 and least likely to fall between the ages of 75 to 84. Men were more likely to live in houses than women. Table 2 illustrates the thirteen percentage point difference between the number of men (79%, n=277) residing in houses and the number of women (66%, n=312) in houses. Married persons lived in houses more often than unmarried persons. Eighty-six percent (n=400) of the married respondents compared to 53% (n=194) of the unmarried respondents were house dwellers. Refer to Table 3.

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[1] Refer to Appendix for a list of other papers in this series.

The majority of respondents within each income bracket resided in houses. However, the probability of residing in a house increased as income increased. Eighty percent (n=242) of the persons whose monthly income exceeded $999 resided in houses compared to just over sixty percent (61%, n=130) of the persons whose income fell below $600.[1] Refer to Table 4.

Of the total sample, 67% (n=569) owned their residences. It is noteworthy that as the income of the respondents increased, the likelihood of residential ownership increased as well. Table 5 illustrates that 80% (n=240) of the persons whose monthly income exceeded $999 owned their residence compared to 57% (n=100) of persons whose monthly income fell below $600.

The majority (70%, n=593) of persons interviewed lived with other persons. Less than one-third (30%, n=253) lived on their own. Most (84%, n=491) of those who did not live alone lived with one other person. Eight percent (n=49) lived with two persons and eight percent (n=43) lived with three or more persons.

Eighty-one percent (n=474) of those who did not live alone lived with their spouse; close to one-fifth (19%, n=113) lived with two children; four percent (n=25) lived with siblings; four percent (n=32) lived with other relatives and one percent (n=8) lived with friends. Sixteen percent (n=92) lived with a combination of persons.

Of those who resided with others[2], the majority (83%, n=109) resided in houses. Seventeen percent (n=23) lived in apartments. House dwellers (94%, n=102) were more likely than apartment dwellers (9%, n=2) to own their residence.

Among the respondents who lived alone, 44% (n=108) lived in houses and 56% (n=140) lived in apartments. Almost all (99%, n=107) of the house dwellers owned their residence. By contrast, six percent (n=8) of those in apartments were owners. Refer to Table 6.

The respondents who lived alone had significantly lower incomes than the respondents who lived with spouses or others. Table 7 illustrates that of the persons who lived alone 53% (n=127) had monthly incomes below $600. Of those who lived with spouses, eight percent (n=32) fell into this income category.

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[1] On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

[2] Others is defined as friends, family members, paid help or acquaintances. If the respondent is living with a spouse and one or more persons, he/she is included in the other category.

The respondents in urban areas (32%, n=211) were more likely to live alone than their rural counterparts (24%, n=41). Persons who lived alone were slightly older (mean age 75) than the persons who did not live alone (mean age 73). Table 8 shows that among the persons aged 62 to 74, just under one-quarter (23%, n=113) lived alone. In comparison, 38% (n=24) of the persons aged 85+ lived by themselves.

Married respondents were the least likely to live alone (1%, n=4). Divorced/separated persons lived alone in 73% (n=24) of the cases. Widowed persons lived alone in 69% (n=188) of the instances and single persons lived alone 60% (n=36) of the time. Refer to Table 9.

The satisfaction of the respondents with their housing was evaluated by asking the respondents to indicate if they felt their current residence was too large, too far from services, too far from family, too far from friends or too far from transportation. Table 10 shows that more than 80% of the respondents indicated that their housing did not fit into any of these categories. The complaint voiced most frequently by the respondents was the distance between their residence and their family (16%, n=132).

Plans to move in the future were indicated by five percent (n=45) of the respondents. The most common reasons given by the respondents for these plans were difficulty maintaining their residence (25%, n=10), the size of their residence (13%, n=5) and the expenses involved maintaining their residence (10%, n=4).

Among the respondents who indicated plans to move, 40% (n=17) said they were planing to move into a senior citizens' apartment building. Two percent (n=19) of the total sample said they were on a waiting list for a senior citizens' apartment.

3. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

The possibility exists for all older persons who reside in their own homes that a time may come when they are unable to care for their own needs. If that time does come, the older persons may be faced with finding a suitable arrangement to meet their inpending requirements. In this survey the respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing that might interest them. The question was posed as such,..."If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to take care of your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements"

- moving in with members of the family
- moving in with friends
- moving into a home for elderly persons
- staying home with friends to assist
- staying home with family to assist
- staying home with community services to assist
- moving into a housing project where some services are available.

The respondents interest in each of these options is indicated on Table 11.

The housing option for which the largest proportion of respondents (57%, n=469) expressed interest was remaining at home with the assistance of community services. The next two most popular options for which almost one-half of the respondents voiced interest were moving into a housing project where some services are available and moving into a home for elderly persons. The respondents showed least interest in moving in with friends (3%, n=24) and in moving in with family members (16%, n=135). Noteworthy is the finding that the most frequent "don't know" responses were with respect to moving into a home for elderly persons and moving into a housing project where some services were available.

The expression of interest in each of the housing options was examined in relation to differences relative to the respondents' age, sex, geographical location (rural/urban), income, marital status, living mates, present housing type, number of interfering health conditions, frequency of phone contact and visits with friends, number of children, number of activities with which assistance is received and number of requests for additional assistance.

For purposes of analysis, two housing options were combined and analyzed as one: moving into a home for elderly persons and moving into a housing project where some services were available (hereafter supportive housing arrangement). These two groups were combined upon theoretical consideration and upon an examination of the frequencies.

Interest in the first option, moving in with members of the family was expressed by sixteen percent (n=135) of the respondents. In the urban areas nineteen percent (n=113) indicated interest and in the rural areas thirteen percent (n=21) reported interest.

Table 12 shows that as the respondents increased in age, their interest in moving in with family also increased. Interest was expressed by fifteen percent (n=68) of persons aged 62 to 74 compared to 33% (n=17) of persons aged 85+.

The respondents with the higher incomes were less likely than persons with lower incomes to express an interest in moving in with family. Table 13 shows that interest was expressed by close to one-quarter (24%, n=44) of the persons whose monthly income fell below $600. compared to thirteen percent (n=40) of the persons whose monthly income exceeded $999.

The more frequently the respondents were visited by family members, the more likely they were to report an interest in moving in with them should they have difficulty living on their own. Table 14 shows that interest in moving in with family ranged from four percent (n=2) of persons who were visited less than once per year to 22% (n=77) of persons who were visited once or more per week.

The second option, moving in with friends, was considerably less attractive to the respondents than moving in with family, as a mere three percent (n=24) indicated an interest. Table 15 reveals that marital status was a distinguishing characteristic of persons who expressed an interest in this option. Least interest (2%, n=7) was expressed by those who were married and most interest was expressed by persons who were divorced/separated (15%, n=5).

The third option, moving into a home for elderly persons or moving into a housing project where some services were available (hereafter, Supportive Housing Arrangement) was regarded as attractive by 65% (n=547) of the respondents. Interest in this option was indicated by 73% (n=118) of the residents of rural areas compared to 68% (n=429) of the residents in urban areas. Those who had expressed interest were distinguished from those who did not, by their present housing type, age, marital status, and requests for additional assistance. Tables 16 through 19 reveal that the persons most likely to indicate an interest in moving into a supportive housing arrangement were apartment dwellers, those between the ages of 62 and 74, those who were single and those who had additional requests for assistance.

The fourth option, staying home with community services to assist, attracted the interest of the largest proportion (57%, n=469) of respondents. The persons who most frequently expressed interest in remaining at home with the assistance of community services resided in apartments (Table 20) had incomes of $800+ per month (Table 21), and indicated requests for additional assistance (Table 22).

The fifth and sixth options were, respectively, remaining at home with friends to assist and remaining at home with family members to assist. Thirty-six percent (n=299) of the respondents reported an interest in staying home with friends to assist and 44% (n=357) indicated an interest in having family assistance. No significant differences were found between rural and urban dwellers with respect to the interest voiced in receiving assistance from family. However, the expression of interest differed between persons in rural and urban communities regarding the interest in receiving assistance from friends. Persons in rural communities 43% (n=65) were more likely than persons in the urban communities (38%, n=228) to indicate an interest in receiving help from friends.

It is of interest to note that the respondents in the rural areas were visited by friends more frequently than the respondents in the urban areas. Seventy-five percent (n=126) of the respondents in the rural areas were visited by a friend at least once per month compared to 70% (n=474) of the respondents in the urban communities.

Irrespective of community, the respondents who were visited more frequently by friends were more likely than those who were visited less frequently to indicate an interest in receiving help from friends. Table 21 shows a twelve percent age point difference (42% compared to thirty percent) in the indication of interest expressed by persons who were visited at least once per month compared to those who were visited less often.

The respondents who voiced interest in remaining at home with family members to assist differed from those who were not interested by whether they lived alone, the frequency of phone contact they maintained with family and the frequency with which family visited them. The respondents most likely to voice an interest in receiving the assistance of family members while remaining at home lived alone (Table 22) had phone contact with family members every day (Table 23) and were visited by family one or more times per week (Table 24).

4. CONCLUSION

It can be predicted that many individuals will experience a decline in their health, their coping ability and their independence. This change may necessitate a change in the environment. Although changes that may be required may indeed be many, the number of available options may be few. The decision of older persons to remain at home or to move can be an important crossroad in their lives, a decision that can ultimately have a significant bearing on their quality of life.

The significance of the housing environment for older persons has been the subject of much gerontological research. The assumption underlying a great deal of this research is that as persons get older their ability to live independently is dependent upon environmental supports and access to services.

Many attempts have been made to evaluate the appropriate environment for individuals as they age and as their number of requirements increases (Kahana, 1975). The results of these attempts have demonstrated that this evaluation is by no means simple or straight forward. Ehrlich et al. (1982) suggest that in seeking to determine the most compatible environment for older persons:

> Knowledge of individual attitudes, behaviours and functional capacities alone is inadequate for such an assessment. An understanding of the functional interrelationships of the....(older person)....as they are expressed through involvement in sound support networks is essential to determine individual needs and environmental potential for maintaining congruence....(p.400).

In this paper efforts were made to assess the respondents' current housing situation and the type of accommodation that would be desired should it be difficult for them to remain within their own homes. To place these findings in context, it is worth considering the findings indicated in the report: Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance.

This report indicates that 49% of the respondents received assistance with at least one activity. Sixty-five percent of the assistance was provided by family members, with the largest single provider being daughters (22%). Nine percent of the assistance came from neighbours/friends and three percent was provided by community agencies.

In spite of the fact that very few respondents currently received the assistance of community services, it is noteworthy, that the housing option for which the largest proportion (57%) of respondents indicated interest was remaining at home with the assistance of community services.

In order of popularity from most to least the housing options for which interest was expressed were:

- staying at home with the assistance of community services
- moving into a supportive housing arrangement
- staying home with family to assist
- staying home with friends to assist
- moving in with members of the family
- moving in with friends.

It is evident from these findings that reliance upon family members or friends, whether it be staying at home and receiving assistance from them, or moving in with them, was considered least desirable by the respondents. Therefore, even though family and friends were currently providing the bulk of assistance, the respondents, through their responses to these questions, indicated that should they require more assistance, they would prefer to receive the assistance from formal services rather than from their informal supports.

A comparison was made of the proportion of respondents who indicated an interest in the following housing options: remaining at home with community services or family/friends to assist, moving into a supportive housing arrangement, and moving in with family or friends. The proportion of persons who expressed interest in these options was respectively 47%, 46% and fourteen percent. These findings suggest that although the most popular option was remaining at home with assistance, the interest in this option was only slightly larger than the interest expressed in moving into supportive housing. The difference between these groups, was negligible. Clearly the least popular housing option was moving into the home of a family member or a friend.

The findings in this study suggest the respondents' interest in various housing options and highlight the difference in preferences. The interest expressed varied from a low of three percent (moving in with friends) to a high of 57% (remaining at home with the assistance of community services).

The variety of interests revealed underline the necessity of having available alternative housing environments from which older persons can choose should they require assistance. Furthermore, the finding that demographic and contextual factors discriminate among groups in the expression of interest reinforces the significance of considering these factors in the planning process.

TABLE 1: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(373)	76	(178)	65	(44)	69
Apartment	(121)	24	(95)	35	(20)	31
TOTAL*	(494)	100	(273)	100	(64)	100

*5 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 12.66 $P < .01$

TABLE 2: SEX OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	SEX			
	Men		Women	
HOUSING TYPE	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(277)	79	(312)	66
Apartment	(76)	21	(160)	34
TOTAL*	(353)	100	(472)	100

* 11 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 15.21 $P < .01$

TABLE 3: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	MARITAL STATUS							
	SINGLE		MARRIED		WIDOWED		DIVORCED/ SEPARATED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(27)	45	(400)	86	(153)	57	(14)	42
Apartment	(33)	55	(67)	14	(118)	43	(19)	58
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(466)	100	(271)	100	(33)	100

Chi Square = 148.02   P < .01

*5 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MONTHLY INCOME							
	$000 - 599		600 - 799		800 - 999		1000+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(130)	61	(84)	72	(107)	74	(242)	80
Apartment	(84)	39	(32)	28	(38)	26	(61)	20
TOTAL*	(214)	100	(116)	100	(145)	100	(303)	100

Chi Square = 32.42 $P < .01$

*58 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY OWNED OR RENTED THEIR RESIDENCE

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MONTHLY INCOME									
	$000-599		$600-799		$800-999		$1000 +		Total	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Owned	(108)	57	(81)	72	(103)	72	(240)	80	(532)	71
Rented	(80)	43	(31)	28	(41)	28	(62)	20	(241)	29
TOTAL*	(188)	100	(112)	100	(144)	100	(302)	100	(746)	100

*90 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 29.65 $P < .01$

TABLE 6: HOUSING TYPE AND OWNERSHIP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVED ALONE, WITH A SPOUSE OR WITH OTHERS*

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

OWNERSHIP	LIVING MATES											
	Alone**				Spouse***				Others****			
	House		Apartment		House		Apartment		House		Apartment	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own	(107)	99	(8)	6	(331)	96	(7)	12	(102)	92	(2)	9
Rent	(1)	1	(132)	94	(13)	4	(51)	88	(7)	6	(21)	91
TOTALS	(109)	100	(140)	100	(344)	100	(58)	100	(109)	100	(23)	100

Chi Square = 256.32 $P < .01$

**5 Missing Observations ***5 Missing Observations ****44 Missing Observations

* Others is defined as friends, family members, paid help or acquaintances. If the respondent is living with a spouse and one or more persons, he/she is included in the other category.

TABLE 7: TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVED ALONE, WITH A SPOUSE OR WITH OTHERS*

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MONTHLY INCOME	LIVING MATES							
	ALONE		SPOUSE		OTHERS		TOTAL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
$000-599	(127)	53	(32)	8	(57)	37	(216)	28
$600-799	(40)	17	(53)	14	(23)	15	(116)	15
$800-999	(24)	10	(97)	25	(24)	16	(145)	19
$1000+	(47)	20	(206)	53	(50)	32	(303)	38
TOTAL**	(238)	100	(388)	100	(154)	100	(780)	100

**56 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 178.24 P <.01

* Others is defined as friends, family members, paid help or acquaintances. If the respondent is living with a spouse and one or more persons, he/she is included in the other category.

TABLE 8: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVED ALONE OR WITH OTHERS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(113)	23	(114)	42	(24)	38
Lives With Others	(382)	77	(160)	58	(40)	62
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

*3 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 31.33 $P < .01$

TABLE 9: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVED ALONE OR WITH OTHERS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS							
	SINGLE		MARRIED		WIDOWED		DIVORCED/ SEPARATED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(36)	60	(4)	1	(188)	69	(24)	73
Lives with Others	(24)	40	(463)	99	(85)	31	(9)	27
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(467)	100	(273)	100	(33)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: RESPONSES OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: IS YOUR RESIDENCE......

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Too Large	(82)	10	(761)	90	(844)	100*
Too Far From Services	(54)	6	(789)	94	(844)	100*
Too Far From Family	(132)	16	(705)	84	(837)	100**
Too Far From Friends	(61)	7	(778)	93	(839)	100***
Too Far From Transportation	(92)	11	(749)	89	(842)	100****

* 2 Missing Observations
** 9 Missing Observations
*** 7 Missing Observations
**** 4 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VARIOUS TYPES OF HOUSING

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	INTEREST							
	INTERESTED		NOT INTERESTED		DON'T KNOW		TOTAL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Move in With Members of Family	(135)	16	(632)	76	(63)	8	(830)[a]	100
Move in With Friends	(24)	3	(773)	93	(32)	4	(829)[b]	100
Move into a Home for Elderly Persons	(378)	45	(367)	44	(88)	11	(833)[c]	100
Stay Home With Friends To Assist	(299)	36	(465)	56	(62)	8	(826)[d]	100
Stay Home With Family To Assist	(357)	44	(416)	51	(44)	5	(817)[e]	100
Stay Home With Community Services To Assist	(469)	57	(299)	36	(59)	7	(827)[f]	100
Move Into Housing Project Where Some Services Are Available	(391)	47	(355)	43	(82)	10	(828)[g]	100

[a] 14 Missing Observations
[b] 17 Missing Observations
[c] 13 Missing Observations
[d] 20 Missing Observations
[e] 29 Missing Observations
[f] 19 Missing Observations
[g] 18 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: AGE OF RESPONDENTS BY INTEREST EXPRESSED IN MOVING IN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE					
INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(68)	15	(48)	19	(17)	33
Not Interested	(386)	85	(201)	81	(34)	67
TOTAL*	(454)	100	(249)	100	(51)	100

*92 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 11.32 $P < .01$

TABLE 13: MONTHLY INCOME REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS	INCOME							
	$000-599		$600-799		$800-999		$1,000+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(44)	24	(16)	16	(16)	13	(40)	13
Not Interested	(143)	76	(87)	84	(112)	87	(250)	87
TOTAL*	(187)	100	(103)	100	(128)	100	(290)	100

*128 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 9.85 $P < .05$

TABLE 14: FREQUENCY WITH WHICH RESPONDENTS WERE VISITED BY FAMILY MEMBERS BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS	FREQUENCY OF VISITS							
	1+ x/wk.		1-3 x/mo.		1-6 x/yr.		Less than 1 x/yr.	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(77)	22	(34)	17	(21)	14	(2)	4
Not Interested	(275)	78	(168)	83	(127)	86	(42)	96
TOTAL*	(352)	100	(202)	100	(148)	100	(44)	100

*90 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 10.63 $P < .05$

TABLE 15: MARITAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH FRIENDS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING IN WITH FRIENDS	MARITAL STATUS							
	SINGLE		MARRIED		WIDOWED		DIVORCED/ SEPARATED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(6)	11	(7)	2	(8)	3	(5)	15
Not Interested	(47)	89	(436)	99	(248)	97	(28)	85
TOTAL*	(53)	100	(442)	100	(256)	100	(33)	100

*51 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 21.37 $P < .01$

TABLE 16: PRESENT HOUSING TYPE OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING INTO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING INTO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT	HOUSING TYPE			
	HOUSE		APARTMENT	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(377)	66	(165)	76
Not Interested	(190)	34	(52)	24
TOTAL*	(567)	100	(217)	100

*52 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 6.26 $P < .01$

TABLE 17: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY INTEREST IN MOVING INTO A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING INTO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT	AGE					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(339)	72	(176)	67	(30)	53
Not Interested	(134)	28	(85)	33	(27)	47
TOTAL*	(473)	100	(261)	100	(57)	100

*45 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 8.99 P =.01

TABLE 18: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING INTO A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING INTO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT	MARITAL STATUS							
	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced/ Separated	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(43)	77	(315)	71	(168)	65	(18)	55
Not Interested	(13)	23	(129)	29	(90)	35	(15)	45
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(444)	100	(258)	100	(33)	100

*45 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 7.37 $P < .05$

TABLE 19: REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING INTO A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN MOVING INTO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ARRANGEMENT	NO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE		REQUESTS MADE FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(161)	63	(99)	73
Not Interested	(96)	37	(36)	27
TOTAL*	(257)	100	(135)	100

*22 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 4.06 $P < .05$

TABLE 20: HOUSING TYPE OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ASSIST	HOUSING TYPE			
	House		Apartment	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(311)	58	(150)	71
Not Interested	(226)	42	(61)	29
TOTAL*	(537)	100	(211)	100

*88 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 10.57 $P < .01$

TABLE 21: INCOME OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING AT HOME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ASSIST	MONTHLY INCOME					
	$000 - 599		$600 - 799		$800+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(108)	56	(59)	56	(270)	65
Not Interested	(84)	44	(47)	44	(145)	35
TOTAL*	(192)	100	(106)	100	(415)	100

*123 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 7.70 $P \leq .05$

TABLE 22: REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ASSIST	NO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE		REQUESTS MADE FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(339)	58	(130)	69
Not Interested	(241)	42	(58)	31
TOTAL*	(580)	100	(188)	100

*78 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 6.39 $P < .05$

TABLE 23: FREQUENCY WITH WHICH RESPONDENTS WERE VISITED BY FRIENDS BY THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FRIENDS TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FRIENDS TO ASSIST	FREQUENCY OF VISITS FROM FRIENDS			
	At Least One Per Month		Less Than One Per Month	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(229)	42	(64)	30
Not Interested	(312)	58	(146)	70
TOTAL*	(541)	100	(210)	100

*85 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 8.44 $P < .01$

TABLE 24: LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSIST	Lives Alone		Lives With Others	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(92)	40	(261)	49
Not Interested	(136)	60	(276)	51
TOTAL*	(228)	100	(537)	100

*71 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 4.06 $P < .05$

TABLE 25: FREQUENCY OF RESPONDENTS' PHONE CONTACT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS BY THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSIST	FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT							
	Every Day		1-6 x/wk.		1-3x/mo.		Less Than 1x/mo.	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(131)	55	(166)	46	(36)	38	(18)	33
Not Interested	(109)	45	(193)	54	(60)	62	(37)	67
TOTAL*	(240)	100	(359)	100	(96)	100	(55)	100

*86 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 13.59 $P < .01$

TABLE 26: FREQUENCY OF THE RESPONDENTS' VISITS FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OF THEIR INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSIST

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

INTEREST IN STAYING HOME WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSIST	FREQUENCY OF VISITS FROM FAMILY MEMBERS							
	1 x/wk.		1-3x/mo.		1-6x/mo.		Less Than Once A Year	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Interested	(195)	55	(91)	43	(59)	40	(7)	17
Not Interested	(163)	45	(118)	57	(88)	60	(33)	83
TOTAL*	(358)	100	(209)	100	(147)	100	(40)	100

*82 Missing Observations

Chi Square = 25.76 $P < .01$

APPENDIX

OTHER PAPERS IN USCO SERIES

The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

Within the series, seven papers are issue oriented:

1. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Health Status and Use of the Health Care System*.
2. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance*.
3. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation as Volunteers and Their Interest in Volunteerism*.
4. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation*.
5. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services*.
6. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Current Housing Situation and Their Interest in Various Housing Options*.
7. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and The Barriers to Their Participation*.

Six papers provide profiles of subgroups within the population surveyed:

8. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experience of Those Who are Childless*.
9. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Age Differences With Particular Focus on Persons Aged 85+*.
10. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experiences of Those Who Are Frail*.
11. *Elderly Residents in Ontario: Marital Differences With Particular Focus on Those Who Are Single*.

12. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Income Group Differences.
13. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Rural-Urban Differences.

The series also includes:

14. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Study Methodology: a paper outlining the background of the study and the research methods employed.
15. Elderly Residents in Ontario: An Overview: a paper summarizing the findings and content of the other fourteen papers in the series.

The intention is that each of the fifteen papers in the series can be studied on its own but, also that the complete series will offer continuity and comprehensive information in an accessible form.

Additional copies of this report, and others in the series, are available in person from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario;

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5th Floor, 880 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N8

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APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

Chi Square:	a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.
Cleaning:	a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).
Coding:	a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.
Community Agency/ Service:	all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.
Cross Tabulations:	a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.
Data:	the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.
Dependent Variable:	the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.
Disability:	the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)
Frail:	reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies:	descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.
Friendly Visiting:	a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.
G.I.S.:	Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.
GAINS-A:	Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.
Health Care System:	family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.
Home Care:	a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.
Independent Variables:	the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.
Institutional Settings:	nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.
Instrument:	the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.
Interfering Health Conditions:	health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.
Interview Schedule:	the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity:	an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.
Mean ($\bar{X}$):	the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.
Missing Observations:	instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.
Multiple Response:	a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.
OARS ADL Scale:	specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).
Old Age Security Data Base:	a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension and the Spouse's Allowance.
Paid Help:	distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.
Personal Care Activities:	activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.
Pretest:	the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married:	individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.
Random Sample:	a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.
Represenativeness:	the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.
S.D.:	a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.
Sample:	part of the population at large, selected for study.
Sample Frame:	the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.
Significant Differences:	determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.
Single:	persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.
Social Contacts:	visits with friends and family or in person.
Socio-Economic:	characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.
Stratified Sample:	a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements:	a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.
Tau:	Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.
Variable:	refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.
Volunteer:	a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

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OF ONTARIO

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Single

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:
DIFFERENCES BY MARITAL STATUS WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE

Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs
Seniors Secretariat
September, 1985

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Arlene Hoffman, Ph.D.
Research Consultant

SUMMARY

This paper focuses on the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population interviewed for the USCO survey: the single (never married) respondents. The characteristics being considered include demographics, recreation, health status, use of the health care system, receipt of assistance, housing preferences and transportation. To place the experiences of the single respondents into appropriate context, their experiences are compared to the experiences of two other groups: the respondents who are currently married and the respondents who are divorced, separated or widowed (hereafter previously married).

The single respondents were distinguished by their geographic and demographic characteristics. The largest concentration of the single respondents was found in the most populous urban centre: Toronto and the smallest concentration was found in Penetanguishene. Single respondents were most frequently between the ages of 62 and 74, women, renters as opposed to owners, as likely to live in apartments as houses and likely to live alone.

The social contacts maintained by the single respondents were distinguished from those of the other respondents. Single persons had the fewest family members and maintained the least frequent family contact. In relation to friends, single persons were unique in the fact that they maintained the most frequent phone contact.

The single respondents participated in the fewest recreational activities. Ninety-two percent indicated barriers which they reported kept them from participating to the extent they had desired. Health was cited most frequently. The absence of transportation and the absence of companions also accounted for a significant proportion (a range of from seven to ten percent) of the barriers.

The single respondents did not differ from the other groups in their self-perception of health. Sixty-seven percent of the single respondents considered their health to be good or excellent; eight percent defined their health as poor. When comparing their health with five years previous, ten percent of the single respondents said their health had improved, 67% stated their health remained the same and 23% reported a deterioration in their health. The single respondents reported the fewest health conditions and the fewest interfering health conditions.

Marital status was not a distinguishing factor in the use of the health care system. Among the single respondents, 93% had been seen by family doctors, 35% had been seen by specialists and seventeen percent had been hospitalized.

The ability of the respondents to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items of the OARS instrumental and physical activities of daily living (ADLS) scales. Nine ADLS were presented to the respondents and they were asked to indicate if they could personally accomplish each

activity without help, with some help or if they were unable to do the activity at all. The nine ADLS included using the telephone, shopping preparing meals, doing heavy housework, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. In situations where the respondents indicated that they required assistance with the ADLS or that they were personally unable to do the activity, they were defined as having a disability. When examining the number of disabilities reported by marital status it was found that disabilities were least frequently reported by the married respondents (26%) and most frequently reported by the previously married group (39%). The single respondents (27%) who reported disabilities, reported most difficulty with housework and shopping.

All respondents were read a list of 22 day to day activities and were asked if they received assistance with the activities. The single respondents (38%) were the least likely to receive assistance. The single respondents received most help with yardwork, heavy housework, shopping and house repairs.

With respect to the assistance received, the married respondents received the largest proportion (37%) of assistance from spouses and the previously married respondents received most (36%) help from children. The single respondents, on the other hand, were most reliant (42%) on paid help. Both neighbours/friends and paid help were relied on to a significantly larger extent by the single respondents than by those who were currently or previously married.

When asked if any additional assistance was needed with the 22 day to day activities, the single respondents (18%) voiced the fewest requests. The requests made by the single respondents were primarily for help with heavy housework, going out in bad weather, and yardwork.

All respondents were presented with five housing options and were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing they would want should they be unable to care for their own needs. The housing options included: moving in with family, moving in with friends, staying at home with community services to assist, staying at home with family/friends to assist or moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (supportive housing arrangement). Across all groups the majority of respondents indicated an interest in staying home with the assistance of community services or moving into a supportive housing arrangement. The single respondents were the most likely to report an interest in moving in with friends.

The single respondents differed from the other groups in that they (14%) were the most likely to report transportation problems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey.[1] The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup within the population surveyed: the persons who are single (never married). Little information is available on the living situation of older single persons. The means by which they manage on a day to day basis is virtually unknown. In light of the fact that single persons do not have spouses and are unlikely to have children, older single persons lack the principal sources of support relied upon by the majority of elderly adults. In view of this uniqueness, the single persons' living situation warrants serious consideration.

In this paper a profile of older single persons is drawn. Attention is given to their demographic characteristics, social contacts, recreation, health status, use of the health care system, receipt of assistance, providers of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences and transportation. To place the experiences of the single respondents into appropriate context, their experiences are being compared to the experiences of two other groups: the respondents who are currently married and the respondents who are divorced/separated or widowed (hereinafter previously married).

In this paper the living situations of these three groups are compared. The living situation of the sample as a whole has been described in other papers within this series. The reader should refer to these papers as basic references for any further comparison of the data.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of the single respondents, the currently married respondents and the previously married respondents are described in this section. Consideration is given to their community of residence, age, sex, income and housing.

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[1] Refer to Appendix for a list of other papers in the USCO series.

Within the total sample seven percent (n=60) of the respondents were single, 56% (n=475) were currently married and 37% (n=308) were previously married. Table 1 illustrates that the proportion of single respondents varied across areas from a low of two percent (n=22) in Penetanguishine to a high of ten percent (n=27) in Toronto. Married respondents were most highly concentrated in Penetanguishine (69%, n=69), and least frequently found in Toronto (49%, n=130).

The single respondents were closer to age to the married respondents than they were to those who were previously married. Table 2 illustrates that the majority of both the single respondents (63%, n=38) and the married respondents (70%, n=333) were between the ages of 62 and 74. Just over one-quarter of both groups (28%, n=17 and 26%, n=125 respectively) were aged 75 to 84. The previously married group was composed of the oldest respondents; 43% (n=131) were 62 to 74, 43% (n=133) fell between the ages of 75 to 84 and fourteen percent (n=43) were aged 85+.

Women were more likely than men to be single. Table 3 shows that among the single respondents, there were twice as many women (68%, n=41) as men (32%, n=19). As well, women (81%, n=247) outnumbered men (19%, n=58) four to one in the previously married group. Men were more likely than women to be found in the married group. They (58%, n=195) outnumbered women by sixteen percentage points.

Of the three groups, the married respondents had the highest monthly incomes and the previously married respondents had the lowest incomes. Table 4 illustrates that whereas, over one-half (54%, n=241) of the highest income group (monthly incomes in excess of $999) was composed of the married respondents, more than one-half (56%, n=155) of the lowest income group (monthly incomes under $600) was made up of the respondents who had been previously married.[1].

It is noteworthy that the single respondents had the most evenly distributed incomes of the groups. Close to one-quarter (31%, n=17) of the single group had monthly incomes exceeding $999; 39% (n=22) had monthly incomes under $600.

Marital status differences were found in relation to housing arrangements. Table 5 shows that the single (61%, n=36) and previously married respondents (52%, n=16) were more likely to rent than to own their housing. By contrast, the married respondents were five times as likely to be owners (84%, n=398) as renters (16%, n=77).

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[1] On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

Married respondents had a six times greater likelihood of residing in houses (87%, n=407) than apartments. Single respondents resided in houses (50%, n=27) as often as they resided in apartments (50%, n=27). Previously married respondents had a slightly greater likelihood (55%, n=169) of being house dwellers. Refer to Table 6.

The majority of both the single respondents (60%, n=36) and the previously married respondents (69%, n=213) resided alone. Table 7 illustrates that married respondents lived alone in one percent (n=4) of the cases.

3. SOCIAL CONTACTS

Social contacts were assessed in this study on the basis of visits and telephone conversations with family and friends. In this section these contacts are examined.

Almost all (99%, n=835) of the respondents had contact with at least one family member. Table 8 illustrates that the single respondents had contact with the fewest family members. Seven percent (n=4) had no family contacts. The married respondents had the largest number of contacts; 77%, (n=367) had contact with seven or more persons.

Table 9 shows the number of respondents who had contact with children. Contact with at least one child was maintained by five percent (n=3) of the single respondents, 85% (n=263) of the previously married respondents and ninety percent (n=427) of the married respondents.

Marital status was a distinguishing factor in the frequency of contacts with family. The most frequent contacts whether it be by telephone or in person were maintained by the currently married and the previously married respondents. Single respondents had the least frequent contact. On a weekly basis phone contact with family was maintained by 81% of both the currently and previously married groups in contrast with 53% (n=29) of the single group. Over one-quarter (29%) of the single respondents had phone contact with family less than once per month. Refer to Table 10.

Irrespective of marital status, women had more frequent phone contact with family than men. At least once per week 63% (n=24) of single women and 85% (n=205) of the previously married women spoke with family by phone. The corresponding percentages for men were 29% (n=5) and 61% (n=34) respectively.

The most frequent visits to family were maintained by the married and previously married respondents. Single respondents visited least often. Table 11 illustrates that at least once per month family members were visited by 69% (n=327) of the married group; 66% (n=198) of the previously married group and 36% (n=20) of the single group.

Irrespective of marital status, women visited family more frequently than men. The most dramatic differences between groups occurred between those who had been previously married and those who were single. Forty-one percent (n=16) of the single women and 68% (n=164) of the previously married women visited their family at least once per month. The men who visited with such frequency numbered 24% (n=4) and 58% (n=33) of the respective groups.

The currently and previously married respondents received the most frequent visits from family. Single respondents were visited least frequently. Table 12 shows that at least once per month 77% of the previously and currently married respondents and 46% (n=26) of the single respondents had been visited by family. Women were visited more frequently than men. In the previously married group, a twenty percentage point difference divided the number of women (81%, n=195) from the number of men (61%, n=34) who had been visited by family a minimum of once per month.

Contacts with friends did not vary among groups as significantly as contacts with family. The only statistically significant difference was found in relation to phone contacts. Table 13 illustrates that the most frequent contact with friends was maintained by those who were single and those who were previously married. A minimum of 72% of both groups had phone contact with friends at least once per week. The corresponding figure for the married respondents was 63% (n=296). Women's contact with friends was more frequent than that of men's regardless of marital status. A minimum of 76% of the women compared to a minimum of 54% of the men had phone contact with friends at least once per week.

4. RECREATION

In this survey recreational participation was examined. This section concentrates on the relationship of marital status and participation.

To measure participation, the respondents were read a list of 21 recreational activities and were asked about the extent of their participation in each activity. The activities included solitary activities such as handicrafts, group activities like club participation, activities requiring minimal output of energy like reading and activities requiring greater output like sports. The respondents' participation ranged from one to twenty activities with a mean of twelve. Twenty-eight percent (n=233) of the sample participated in a maximum of ten activities, 21% (n=178) were involved in eleven to twelve activities, 23% (n=199) participated in thirteen to fourteen activities and 28% (n=236) participated in fifteen or more activities.

Table 14 illustrates that the married respondents participated in the largest number of leisure activities; and the single respondents participated in the fewest activities. Involvement in thirteen or more activities was common to 56% (n=266) of the married respondents compared to 44% (n=26) of the single respondents.

Across groups women participated in more leisure activities than men. The differences found within the married and the previously married groups were minimal. The largest difference pertained to those who were single. Among the single respondents 56% (n=23) of the women compared to 16% (n=3) of the men were involved in thirteen or more activities.

No differences in participation were found across groups in relation to eleven of the 21 activities examined. The eleven activities included: participating in clubs, attending the theatre, reading, visiting friends, receiving visits from friends, playing cards, doing volunteer work, helping out at election time, taking walks, attending church and doing hobbies. The activities for which differences in participation were found included: gardening, going to sports events, phoning friends, phoning family, visiting family, receiving visits from family, participating in sports, travelling, going for drives and entertaining. In relation to six of these ten activities, the least frequent participants were the single respondents and the most frequent participants were the married respondents. In all but one of the ten activities the respondents in the married group were the most likely to participate. Refer to Table 15.

Ninety-four precent (n=790) of the total sample reported barriers which they claimed kept them from participating in leisure activities to the extent they desired. At least one barrier was cited by 92% (n=55) of the single respondents, 95% (n=453) of the married respondents and 94% (n=288) of the previously married respondents. Table 16 illustrates that across groups, the barrier cited most frequently was health. The absence of companions and the absence of transportation accounted for a significant proportion (a range of seven to ten percent) of the barriers cited by the single and previously married respondents. Expense, family health problems, being too busy and laziness accounted for a larger proportion of the barriers cited by those who were married than those who were single or previously married.

The characteristics of the respondents who reported selected barriers were analyzed. (Refer to the report entitled: Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and the Barriers to Their Participation for a complete description of these characteristics). Tables 17 through 21 illustrate that marital status discriminated among groups in the citation of five barriers: health, being too busy, expense, transportation, and family health problems. The married respondents were the most likely to report that their recreational participation was hampered because of "being too busy", expense, and family health problems. The single respondents (28%, n=17) on the other hand, were more likely than those who were married (13%, n=60) or those who were previously married (21%, n=64) to cite the absence of transportation as a barrier.

Although health was the most frequently cited barrier by the respondents in all groups, it was cited most often by the respondents who had been previously married (54%, n=165) and least often by those who were married (44%, n=210).

5. HEALTH STATUS

Health status is a composite measure. In this paper it is defined exclusively in terms of perceived health status. Seven variables are used to comprise the measure. They include:

a) subjective rating of health
b) comparison of health with five years previous
c) extent to which health conditions stand in the way of doing things persons want to do
d) number and type of health conditions
e) number and type of interfering health conditions
f) mobility
g) use of assistive devices.

The data presented on health status is based on self-reports.

Marital status was not a discriminating factor in the self-rating of health. Sixty-seven percent (n=40) of the single group, 63% (n=227) of the married group and 58% (n=177) of the previously married group considered their health to be good or excellent. Eight percent of both the single (n=5) and married group and eleven percent (n=33) of the previously married group considered their health to be poor.

When asked to compare their health with five years previous, the three groups differed in their responses. Table 22 illustrates that the majority (a minimum of 52%) of the respondents across groups reported that their health had remained the same over the five year period. Twenty-three to forty percent of the respondents indicated that their health had deteriorated and eight to ten percent said their health had improved. The married respondents (11%, n=51) had the greatest tendency to report an improvement in their health over this period. The previously married (40%, n=123) group were most likely to report a deterioration in health. Among the single respondents, ten percent (n=6) said their health had improved, 67% (n=40) stated their health remained the same and 23% (n=14) reported a deterioration in health.

Although the majority of respondents perceived their health to be good or excellent, a significant proportion of respondents in each group reported that their health interfered with their performance of day to day activities. Table 23 reveals that interference was least often reported by the single respondents (38%, n=23) and most often reported by those who had been previously married (63%, n=194). Reports of interference did not vary statistically by sex.

All respondents were read a list of 31 health conditions and were asked to indicate if a physician had ever told them that they had the condition. The conditions included arthritis, heart trouble, cancer, dizziness, diabetes, etc. (Refer to report entitled <u>Elderly Residents in Ontario. Their Health Status and Their Use of the Health Care System</u> for a listing of the conditions). The number of conditions reported varied by marital status such that the previously married respondents reported the largest number of conditions and the single respondents reported the fewest conditions. Table 24 shows that five or more conditions were reported by 25% (n=15) of the single respondents, 30% (n=145) of the married respondents and 39% (n=122) of the previously married respondents.

Regardless of marital status, women reported a greater number of health conditions than men. Thirty-nine percent (n=186) of the women compared to 26% (n=91) of the men reported five or more conditions. The largest number of health conditions were reported by the previously married women. Forty-three percent (n=107) of the previously married women compared to 27% (n=11) of the single women reported at least five conditions. Among the men, the largest number of health conditions were reported by those who were married. Five or more health conditions were reported by 28% (n=75) of the married men, 21% (n=4) of the single men and 20% (n=12) of the men who had been previously married.

Interfering health conditions were most frequently reported by the previously married group and least frequently reported by those who were single. Table 25 shows that at least one interfering condition was reported by 53% (n=32) of the single respondents, 70% (n=333) of the married respondents and fully 74% (229) of the previously married respondents.

Just as women were more likely than men to report health conditions, they were also more likely to report conditions which interferred with day to day activities. Seventy-three percent (n=353) of the women compared to 67% (n= 236) of the men indicated an interfering condition. The previously married women (75%, n=186) reported interfering conditions most often and the single women (56%, n=23) reported interfering conditions least often. The men followed a similar pattern. Interfering conditions were reported most frequently by the previously married men (69%, n=40) and least frequently by single men (47%, n=9).

The respondents' self-reported ability to walk around the average block was used as a measurement of mobility. Using this measure, mobility differed by marital status. The respondents who reported being able to walk around the block numbered 93% (n=442) of the married group, 92% (n=55) of the single group and 87% (n=267) of the group who had been previously married.

6. USE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Use of the health care system was measured by visits to family doctors, specialists and hospitalizations over a twelve month period. The findings revealed that use did not vary statistically by marital status.

During the year prior to being interviewed, the respondents who had been seen by their family doctor included 93% (n=55) of the single group, 92% (n=434) of the married group and 94% (n=282) of the previously married group. Visits to specialists were made by 35% (n=21) of the single group, 39% (n=21) of the married group and 42% (n=126) of the group who had been previously married.

Nineteen percent (n=160) of the total sample had been hospitalized during the year prior to the interview. This figure included seventeen percent (n=10) of the single respondents, 19% (n=83) of the married respondents and 22% (n=67) of the previously married respondents. The majority (68%, n=108) of those hospitalized had been admitted to the hospital one time. The groups did not differ in the number of hospital admissions.

7. TYPE OF DISABILITIES AND RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE

The ability of the respondents to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items from the OARS instrumental[1] and physical activities of daily living (ADLS) scales. These scales are commonly employed to assess the older persons' capability of performing ADLS. The respondents were presented with nine ADLS and were asked to indicate if they could personally accomplish each activity without help, with some help or if they were unable to do the activity at all. The ADLS included using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. In situations where the respondents indicated that they required assistance with the ADL or that they were personally unable to do the activity they were defined as having a disability.

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[1] Refer to Reference section for the reference to these scales.

Table 26 shows that the majority (a minimum of 61%) of the respondents in all groups had no disabilities. Disabilities were least frequently reported by the married respondents (26%) and most frequently reported by those who were previously married (39%, n=120). It must be kept in mind that the previously married respondents were also older than the married respondents.

Across groups women were more likely than men to indicate disabilities. Three or more disabilities were reported by ten percent (n=4) of the single women, ten percent (n=20) of the married women and fourteen percent (n=35) of the previously married women. The corresponding percentages for men were five percent (n=1) six percent (n=17) and nine percent (n=5) respectively.

The capability of the respondents to personally perform each of the nine ADLS was examined. The two most prevalent disabilities reported by all groups were housework and shopping. Marital status differences were found in relation to disabilities with shopping. Table 27 shows that with respect to shopping, the previously married respondents were the most likely to be disabled and the married respondents were disabled least often.

Just as the previously married respondents were more likely than the single or married respondents to report disabilities, they were also more likely to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities. Help with at least one activity was received by: 38% (n=23) of the single group, 42% (n=200) of the married group and 61% (n=188) of the previously married group. Table 28 shows that the respondents in the previously married group were not only more likely to be in receipt of assistance, but also received assistance with the largest number of activities. They (16%, n=49) were twice as likely as the respondents in married group (8%, n=39) and the single group (5%, n=5) to receive assistance with five or more activities.

Across groups, women were more likely than men to receive assistance. Forty-four percent (n=18) of the single women, 49% (n=95) of the married women and 65% (n=160) of the previously married women were in receipt of assistance. The corresponding number of men was 26% (n=5, 38% (n=105) and 45% (n=26) respectively.

Table 29 shows that the type of activities with which assistance was received did not vary among groups in the case of sixteen of the 22 activities considered. Statistically significant differences were found in relation to eight activities, namely, light housework, heavy housework, laundry, house repairs, yardwork, and shopping. The previously married respondents had the greatest likelihood of receiving assistance with these activities. The married respondents were least likely to receive this assistance.

8. PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE

Information was gathered on the sources of assistance used by the respondents with the 22 day to day activities. Table 30 illustrates that the sources used differed by group. The most frequently used sources of assistance among the groups were paid help (41% for the single respondents), spouses (37% for the married respondents) and children (36% for the previously married respondents). Children provided a larger proportion of assistance to the respondents who had been previously married (36%) than to those who were currently married (22%). Neighbours/friends and paid help were relied on to a significantly larger extent by those who were single (32%, 42%, respectively) and by those who were married (6%, 20%, respectively) and by those who had been previously married (11%, 22%, respectively). Community agencies were used to an equal and minimal extent across groups.

The sources of assistance used by women differed in many ways from the sources used by men. Single men were three times more likely than single women to receive assistance from neighbours/friends. Single women, on the other hand, were twice as likely as single men to use the assistance of paid help.

Married women differed from married men in the amount of assistance they received from daughters compared to the amount they received from sons. Married women were provided with a greater proportion of assistance from daughters (14%) than sons (9%). In contrast, married men received a larger proportion of assistance from sons (15%) than daughters (6%).

In addition to obtaining information on the sources of assistance with the 22 day to day activities, information was gathered on the use of five specific community agencies. The agencies included Visiting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels, and Friendly Visiting. The number of respondents who used the agencies differed by group. Table 32 illustrates that the agencies were used most frequently by those who were previously married (16%, n=49) and least frequently by those who were married (6%, n=28). Use of these agencies did not vary by sex.

When the use of each agency was examined on its own, the only significant difference across groups was found in relation to the use of Visiting Nurses. The most likely users were the previously married respondents (13%, n=41); and the least likely users (4%, n=19) were married.

9. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The respondents were asked if they could use any or any additional (hereafter additional) assistance with the 22 day to day activities. The number of respondents who voiced requests did not differ statistically across groups. Requests were made by eighteen percent (n=11) of the single respondents, 22% (n=106) of the married respondents and 29% (n=88) of the previously married respondents. No significant differences among groups were found when sex was controlled for. The three groups did not differ with respect to their requests for additional assistance. Refer to Table 33.

Comparing the requests of the three groups reveals that the most prevalent requests from the single respondents were for assistance with heavy housework (12%, n=7), going out in bad weather (7%, n=4) and yardwork (6%, n=3). The married respondents made most requests for assistance with heavy housework (10%, n=48) yardwork (10%, n=46) and house repairs (8%, n=38). The previously married group reported the largest number of requests in relation to heavy housework (13%, n=41), light housework (9%, n=29), yardwork (8%, n=21) and cutting toenails (8%, n=25).

10. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

The possibility exists for all older persons residing in their own homes that a time may come when they are unable to care for their own needs. If that time does come, the older persons may be faced with finding a suitable arrangement to meet their impending requirements. In this survey the respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing that might interest them should this situation arise. The question was posed as such..."If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to care for your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements:

- moving in with family
- moving in with friends
- staying at home with community services to assist
- staying at home with family/friends to assist
- moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (hereafter supportive housing arrangement).

Across groups the majority of respondents indicated an interest in staying home with the assistance of community services or moving into a supportive housing arrangement. Least interest was expressed in moving in with friends.

Table 34 reveals that marital status differences were found in relation to the interest expressed in two housing options, namely, moving in with friends and moving into a supportive housing arrangement. Interest in moving in with friends was expressed most often by those who were single (11%, n=6) and least often by those who were currently married (2%, n=7). Moving into a supportive housing arrangement attracted the most interest of the married respondents (77%, n=43) and the least interest of the currently married respondents (64%, n=186).

11. TRANSPORTATION

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated in using those modes were assessed in this survey. Statistically significant differences were found across groups in both the transportation modes used and the problems experienced.

The transportation mode used by the respondents for shopping, medical appointments and social occasions can be found on Tables 35, 36, and 37. A comparison of the three tables indicates that the respondents tended to use the same mode of transportation for each of the activities. The single respondents generally walked or used public transportation when travelling to each activity. The largest proportion (a minimum of 55%) of the married respondents drove themselves to all activities. Those who had been previously married were likely to get to the activities by walking (a minimum of seventeen percent), driving themselves (a minimum of 23 percent) or being driven by relatives (a minimum of 23%).

When asked if transportation to shopping, medical appointments or social occasions was a problem, nine percent (n=78) of the total sample answered in the affirmative. The response differed across groups such that reports of transportation problems were most prevalent among the single respondents (41%, n=8) and least prevalent among those who were married (7%, n=34). Refer to Table 38.

No significant differences among the groups was found in relation to reports of transportation problems associated with shopping and medical appointments. The groups did vary in reports of problems with transportation to social occasions. Table 39 shows that transportation problems were reported most often by those who were single (8%, n=5) and least often by those who were married (3%, n=13). The numbers in these categories were very small and thus, these findings should be interpreted with extreme caution.

The respondents' general use of public transportation was measured and it was found to differ significantly among the three groups. Table 40 illustrates that the most likely users of public transporation were the single respondents (73%, n=44) and the least likely users were the respondents who were currently married (42%, n=197). No differences across groups were found in the requests for assistance with public transit.

The general use of taxis also differed across groups. Table 41 shows that taxi users numbered 53% (n=32) of the single respondents, 42% (n=129) of the previously married respondents and 23% (n=111) of the respondents who were currently married. Requests for additional assistance with taxis did not vary across groups.

Thirty-two percent (n=258) of the respondents stated that should additional income be available to them, they would spend it on transportation. Table 42 illustrates that the respondents who indicated an interest in allocating additional income on transportation included 35% (n=162) of the married respondents, thirty percent (n=17) of the single respondents and 27% (n=79) of those who had been previously married.

12. CONCLUSION

This paper has profiled the distinguishing characteristics of three groups of persons interviewed for the USCO Survey: the single respondents, the married respondents and the respondents who had been previously married (widowed, divorced or separated). Particular attention has been given to those who are single. The findings revealed that the three groups differed in their demographic characteristics, health status, disabilities, receipt of assistance, sources of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences and use of transporation.

The single respondents had very distinguishable characteristics:

- They made up seven percent of the sample.
- Geographically, they were more heavily concentrated in the city of Toronto than in the remaining seven communities.
- The majority (63%) were between the ages of 62-74; nine percent were aged 85+.
- Women were more likely than men to be single. There were twice as many single women as men.

- They had the most evenly distributed income of all groups; close to one-third had monthly incomes exceeding $999; 39% had monthly incomes under $600.
- They were the most likely of all respondents to reside in apartments and to rent their housing.
- The majority (60%) lived alone.
- They had the fewest family contacts; eight percent had no contacts with family members.
- They maintained the least frequent contact with family.
- The frequency with which they visited and were visited by friends did not differ from the married or previously married respondents. Single respondents had more frequent phone contact with friends than the married respondents; 72% had phone contact with friends at least once per week.
- They participated in the fewest recreational activities.
- They were the the least likley to garden, go to sports events, phone friends, phone family, visit family, receive visits from family, participate in sports, travel, go for drives and entertain.
- They were the most likely to cite the absence of transportation as a barrier to their recreational participation.
- The majority (67%) considered their health to be good or excellent.
- The majority (67%) indicated that their health remained the same over a five year period; 23% reported that their health deteriorated.
- They reported the fewest number of health conditions and the fewest number of interfering health conditions.
- They used the health care system with the same frequency as the respondents who were married or previously married.
- The majority (73%) had no disabilities; nine percent had three or more disabilities.
- They reported most difficulty with doing housework, shopping, and preparing meals.
- Thirty-eight percent received assistance with day to day activities.
- Their most frequent source of assistance was paid help.

- They made the fewest requests for additional assistance; 18% made requests. Their most prevalent requests were for help with heavy housework, going out of doors in bad weather and yardwork.

- Should they be unable to care for their own needs, they expressed most interest in moving into a supportive housing arrangement. Of the three groups, they expressed greatest interest in moving in with friends.

- They were the most likely of all respondents, to report problems with transportation.

The value of this research lies in the importance of recognizing marital status when considering elderly persons and incorporating the unique characteristics of individuals who differ by marital status into decisions that may effect their day to day lives.

TABLE 1: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR MARITAL STATUS ACROSS AREAS

AREA	MARITAL STATUS							
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED		TOTAL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Penetanguishene	(2)	2	(69)	69	(29)	29	(100)	100
Brockville	(3)	6	(28)	60	(16)	34	(47)[1]	100
Cookstown/Athens/ Bruce Mines	(8)	5	(106)	64	(53)	31	(167)[2]	100
Sault Ste Marie	(7)	6	(55)	50	(48)	44	(110)	100
Windsor	(13)	8	(87)	57	(54)	35	(154)[3]	100
Toronto	(27)	10	(130)	49	(108)	41	(265)	100

[1] 1 Missing Observation

[2] 1 Missing Observation

[3] 1 Missing Observation

TABLE 2: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

AGE	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
62-74	(38)	63	(333)	70	(131)	43
75-84	(17)	28	(125)	26	(133)	43
85+	(5)	9	(15)	4	(43)	14
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(473)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 69.91 $P < .01$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 3: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY SEX
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Men	(19)	32	(274)	58	(58)	19
Women	(41)	68	(195)	42	(247)	81
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(469)	100	(305)	100

Chi Square = 120.62 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 3a: MARITAL STATUS OF MEN AND WOMEN BY AGE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MARITAL STATUS

MEN

AGE	SINGLE (N)	SINGLE %	MARRIED (N)	MARRIED %	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED (N)	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED %
62-74	(12)	63	(180)	66	(26)	45
75-84	(7)	37	(82)	30	(22)	38
85+	(0)	0	(12)	4	(10)	17
TOTAL*	(19)	100	(274)	100	(58)	100

*2 Missing Observations

WOMEN

AGE	SINGLE (N)	SINGLE %	MARRIED (N)	MARRIED %	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED (N)	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED %
62-74	(26)	64	(148)	77	(104)	42
75-84	(10)	24	(42)	22	(110)	43
85+	(5)	12	(5)	1	(32)	5
TOTAL*	(41)	100	(195)	100	(246)	100

Chi Square = 72.33 P < .01

*2 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY MONTHLY INCOME (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MONTHLY INCOME	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
$000-$599	(22)	39	(38)	8	(155)	56
$600-$799	(9)	16	(58)	13	(48)	17
$800-$900	(8)	14	(113)	25	(27)	10
$1000+	(17)	31	(241)	54	(49)	17
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(450)	100	(279)	100

Chi Square = 225.60 P <.05

*61 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING OWNERSHIP
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING OWNERSHIP	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own	(23)	39	(398)	84	(147)	48
Rent	(36)	61	(77)	16	(161)	52
TOTAL*	(59)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 140.53 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 6: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(27)	50	(407)	87	(169)	55
Apartment	(27)	50	(63)	13	(137)	45
TOTAL*	(54)	100	(470)	100	(306)	100

Chi Square = 106.69 $P < .01$

*16 Missing Observations

TABLE 7: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVED ALONE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(36)	60	(4)	1	(213)	69
Lives With Others	(24)	40	(471)	99	(95)	31
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 8:

MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF FAMILY CONTACTS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF FAMILY CONTACTS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(5)	8	(1)	1	(6)	2
1-6	(36)	61	(107)	22	(115)	37
7-12	(15)	25	(170)	35	(97)	32
13+	(5)	8	(197)	42	(90)	29
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 9: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAD CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Have Children	(57)	95	(48)	10	(45)	15
Has Children	(3)	5	(427)	90	(263)	85
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Week	(29)	53	(380)	81	(242)	81
1-3 Times Per Month	(10)	18	(66)	14	(29)	10
Less Than Once Per Month	(16)	29	(24)	5	(28)	9
TOTAL*	(55)	100	(470)	100	(299)	100

Chi Square = 44.25 $P < .01$

*22 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THEY VISITED FAMILY MEMBERS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(20)	36	(327)	69	(198)	66
Less Than Once Per Month	(36)	64	(145)	31	(102)	34
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(472)	100	(300)	100

Chi Square = 25.07 $P < .01$

*18 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THEY WERE VISITED BY FAMILY
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(26)	46	(364)	77	(232)	77
Less Than Once Per Month	(30)	54	(109)	23	(68)	23
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(473)	100	(300)	100

Chi Square = 26.24 $P < .01$

*17 Missing Observations

TABLE 13: MARITIAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS WITH FRIENDS
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Week	(43)	72	(296)	63	(224)	73
1-3 Times Per Month	(10)	17	(89)	19	(38)	13
Less Than Once Per Month	(7)	11	(83)	18	(43)	14
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(468)	100	(305)	100

Chi Square = 10.10 $P < .05$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 14: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
1-10	(28)	47	(108)	23	(95)	31
11-12	(6)	10	(101)	21	(71)	23
13-14	(10)	17	(117)	25	(71)	23
15+	(16)	26	(149)	31	(71)	23
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 23.43 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 15: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE[1] OF RESPONDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SELECTED LEISURE ACTIVITIES BY MARITAL STATUS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ACTIVITY	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N=60		N=475		N=308	
Gardening	(24)	41	(332)	70	(122)	40
Going To Sports Events	(11)	19	(140)	30	(54)	18
Phoning Friends	(54)	92	(357)	76	(273)	89
Phoning Family	(44)	79	(438)	93	(272)	90
Visiting Friends	(39)	71	(434)	92	(263)	86
Receiving Visits From Family	(41)	73	(455)	96	(276)	91
Participating In Sports	(9)	16	(103)	22	(42)	14
Travelling	(30)	52	(322)	68	(177)	58
Taking Drives	(36)	62	(362)	77	(230)	75
Entertaining	(26)	45	(311)	66	(172)	56

[1] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 16: BARRIERS IDENTIFIED TO PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS (PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS		
	SINGLE	MARRIED	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
Respondents' Health Problems	18%	21%	29%
Respondents Busy	15%	18%	9%
Too Expensive	12%	16%	11%
Distance	8%	7%	7%
No Companions	9%	5%	10%
No Transportation	10%	3%	7%
Others Busy	2%	5%	5%
Lazy	3%	5%	3%
Family Has Health Problems	4%	6%	1%
No Opportunities Available	4%	3%	4%
Not Sure How To Go About It	1%	2%	3%
Feeling Of Being Too Old	1%	1%	2%
Bad Weather	2%	1%	1%
Fearful	1%	1%	1%
Other	10%	6%	7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 17: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED HEALTH AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Health	(33)	55	(265)	56	(143)	46
Did Cite Health	(27)	45	(210)	44	(165)	54
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 6.75 $P < .05$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 18: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED "BEING TOO BUSY" AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite "Being Too Busy"	(44)	73	(291)	61	(234)	76
Did Cite "Being Too Busy"	(16)	27	(184)	39	(74)	24
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 19.43 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 19: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED EXPENSE AS A BARRIER
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Expense	(40)	67	(253)	53	(210)	68
Did Cite Expense	(20)	33	(222)	47	(98)	32
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 18.59 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 20: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED THE ABSENCE OF TRANSPORTATION AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Transportation	(43)	72	(415)	87	(244)	79
Did Cite Transportation	(17)	28	(60)	13	(64)	21
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 15.15 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 21: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED FAMILY HEALTH PROBLEMS AS A BARRIER
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Family Health Problems	(55)	92	(426)	90	(297)	96
Did Cite Family Health Problems	(5)	8	(49)	10	(11)	4
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 12.86 P <.01

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 22: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY COMPARISON OF HEALTH WITH FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMPARISON OF HEALTH	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Better	(6)	10	(51)	11	(25)	8
About The Same	(40)	67	(272)	57	(160)	52
Worse	(14)	23	(152)	32	(123)	40
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 9.27 P = 05

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 23: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY AN EVALUATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS ACTIVITIES	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not At All	(37)	62	(180)	38	(113)	37
A Little	(13)	22	(202)	42	(125)	41
A Great Deal	(10)	16	(93)	20	(69)	22
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 15.35 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 24: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(7)	12	(42)	9	(14)	5
1-2	(26)	43	(141)	30	(80)	26
3-4	(12)	20	(147)	31	(92)	30
5+	(15)	25	(145)	30	(122)	39
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 25.68 P <.01

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 25: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF INTERFERING HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF INTERFERING CONDITIONS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(28)	47	(142)	30	(79)	26
1	(11)	18	(96)	20	(54)	18
2-3	(13)	22	(127)	27	(74)	24
4+	(8)	13	(110)	23	(101)	32
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 20.06 P <.01

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 26: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF DISABILITIES REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DISABILITIES	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(44)	73	(351)	74	(188)	61
1-2	(11)	18	(87)	18	(79)	26
3+	(5)	9	(37)	8	(41)	13
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 15.56 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 27: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS[1] WHO REPORTED DISABILITIES BY TYPE OF DISABILITY AND BY MARITAL STATUS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ADL	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N=60		N=475		N=308	
Using The Telephone	(5)	8	(29)	6	(24)	8
Shopping[2]	(7)	12	(52)	11	(69)	22
Preparing Meals	(4)	7	(36)	8	(222)	7
Doing Housework	(10)	17	(93)	20	(83)	27
Handling Money	(3)	5	(25)	4	(27)	9
Dressing	(0)	0	(9)	2	(4)	1
Taking Care Of One's Own Appearance	(0)	0	(9)	2	(5)	2
Getting In And Out Of Bed	(2)	3	(7)	2	(4)	1
Bathing	(4)	7	(22)	5	(44)	14

[1] Each precentage is calculated according to the relevant N.

[2] Chi Square = 21.55 $P < .01$

TABLE 28: NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(37)	62	(275)	58	(119)	39
1	(11)	18	(92)	19	(50)	16
2-4	(9)	15	(69)	15	(89)	29
5+	(3)	5	(39)	8	(49)	16
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 48.51 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 29: NUMBER AND PERCENGAGE[1] OF RESPONDENTS WHO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE WITH DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES BY TYPE OF ASSISTANCE AND BY MARITAL STATUS

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N=60		N=475		N=308	
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework[2]	(5)	9	(41)	9	(51)	17
Heavy Housework[3]	(12)	21	(90)	19	(110)	36
Making A Cup Of Tea	(0)	0	(13)	3	(7)	2
Meal Preparation	(1)	2	(20)	4	(19)	6
Laundry[4]	(5)	9	(30)	6	(48)	16
House Repairs[5]	(5)	10	(50)	11	(55)	21
Climbing Stairs	(0)	0	(11)	2	(12)	4
Mobility At Home	(0)	0	(4)	1	(5)	2
Using The Telephone	(0)	0	(11)	2	(9)	3
Mending	(2)	8	(12)	3	(12)	4
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yark Work[6]	(12)	26	(123)	28	(99)	40
Shopping[7]	(7)	12	(43)	9	(81)	26
Going Out In Good Weather	(0)	0	(9)	2	(12)	4
Going Out In Bad Weather	(1)	2	(23)	5	(34)	11
Banking	(2)	3	(24)	5	(37)	12
Paying Bills	(2)	3	(23)	5	(28)	9
Financial Assistance	(0)	0	(9)	2	(11)	4
PERSONAL						
Getting In And Out Of Bed	(0)	0	(8)	2	(2)	1
Bathing	(1)	2	(10)	2	(11)	4
Dressing	(0)	0	(8)	2	(1)	1
Cutting Toenails	(4)	7	(35)	7	(36)	12
Taking Medication	(1)	2	(11)	2	(5)	2

[1] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

[2] Chi Square = 12.08 $P < .01$

[3] Chi Square = 28.68 $P < .01$

[4] Chi Square = 18.29 $P < .01$

[5] Chi Square = 13.84 $P < .01$

[6] Chi Square = 11.82 $P < .01$

[7] Chi Square = 43.14 $P < .01$

TABLE 30: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES TO RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	MARITAL STATUS		
	SINGLE	MARRIED	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
Daughter		10%	24%
Son		12%	12%
Other Family Member	22%	13%	28%
Spouse		37%	
Neighbour/Friend	32%	6%	11%
Community Agency	2%	2%	2%
Paid Help	42%	20%	22%
Other	2%		1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 31: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES TO RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Daughter			6%	14%	33%	24%
Son			15%	9%	5%	11%
Other Family Member	14%	24%	14%	13%	15%	29%
Spouse			38%	36%		
Neighbour/ Friend	64%	22%	5%	6%	13%	11%
Community Agency		2%	3%	1%	4%	3%
Paid Help	22%	48%	18%	21%	28%	22%
Other		4%	1%		2%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 32: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY USE OF FIVE COMMUNITY AGENCIES[1] (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Use Any Of The Agencies	(55)	92	(447)	94	(259)	84
Used One Or More Of The Agencies	(5)	8	(28)	6	(49)	16
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 21.48 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

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[1] VON, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels, and Friendly Visitors.

TABLE 33: TYPE OF REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BY MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)[1]

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N=60		N=475		N=308	
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(2)	3	(21)	4	(29)	9
Heavy Housework	(7)	12	(48)	10	(41)	13
Making A Cup Of Tea	(0)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1
Meal Preparation	(2)	3	(6)	1	(13)	4
Laundry	(2)	3	(10)	2	(2)	1
House Repairs	(2)	4	(38)	8	(20)	7
Climbing Stairs	(0)	0	(6)	1	(4)	1
Mobility At Home	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	1
Using The Telephone	(0)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1
Mending	(2)	3	(2)	1	(4)	1
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(3)	6	(46)	10	(21)	8
Shopping	(2)	3	(9)	2	(16)	5
Going Out In Good Weather	(0)	0	(0)	0	(3)	1
Going Out In Bad Weather	(4)	7	(5)	1	(10)	3
Banking	(1)	3	(4)	1	(4)	1
Paying Bills	(0)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1
Financial Assistance	(1)	2	(6)	1	(0)	0
PERSONAL						
Getting In And Out Of Bed	(1)	2	(0)	0	(2)	1
Bathing	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	1
Dressing	(1)	2	(0)	0	(1)	1
Cutting Toenails	(3)	5	(12)	3	(25)	8
Taking Medication	(0)	0	(1)	1	(0)	0

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[1] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 34: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE [7] OF RESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS BY MARITAL STATUS

HOUSING ARRANGEMENT	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N=60		N=475		N=308	
Moving In With Family[1]	(9)	18	(66)	15	(59)	21
Moving In With Friends[2]	(6)	13	(7)	2	(11)	4
Staying Home With Community Services To Assist[3]	(32)	63	(271)	62	(166)	60
Staying Home With Family/Friends To Assist[4]	(23)	43	(242)	54	(158)	55
Supportive Housing Arrangement[6]	(43)	77	(318)	71	(186)	64

[1] 81 Missing Observations

[2] 51 Missing Observations, Chi Square = 21.37 $P < .01$

[3] 81 Missing Observations

[4] 57 Missing Observations

[5] 47 Missing Observations

[6] Chi Square = 7.37 $P < .05$

[7] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 35:

FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR SHOPPING BY MARITAL STATUS
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(24)	43	(56)	12	(85)	29
Drive Self	(10)	18	(261)	57	(74)	26
Driven By Spouse	(0)	0	(89)	19	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(5)	9	(24)	5	(71)	25
Driven By Friends	(2)	4	(4)	1	(12)	4
Taxi	(3)	5	(4)	1	(9)	3
Public Transportation	(12)	21	(18)	4	(36)	12
Community Agency	(0)	0	(1)	1	(3)	1
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(457)	100	(290)	100

*43 Missing Observations

TABLE 36: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(13)	22	(41)	9	(56)	19
Drive Self	(9)	16	(252)	55	(67)	23
Driven By Spouse	(0)	0	(86)	19	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(4)	7	(24)	5	(84)	28
Driven By Friends	(6)	10	(5)	1	(9)	3
Taxi	(8)	14	(10)	2	(18)	6
Public Transportation	(17)	30	(38)	8	(56)	19
Community Agency	(1)	1	(4)	1	(8)	2
TOTAL*	(58)	100	(460)	100	(298)	100

*30 Missing Observations

TABLE 37: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(10)	21	(33)	8	(43)	17
Drive Self	(9)	19	(252)	60	(64)	26
Driven By Spouse	(0)	0	(81)	20	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(4)	9	(18)	4	(58)	23
Driven By Friends	(9)	19	(8)	2	(35)	14
Taxi	(3)	6	(3)	1	(5)	2
Public Transportation	(12)	26	(21)	5	(42)	17
Community Agency	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	1
TOTAL*	(47)	100	(416)	100	(249)	100

*134 Missing Observations

TABLE 38: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS BY MARITAL STATUS

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(8)	14	(34)	7	(36)	12
No Transportation Problems Reported	(51)	86	(439)	93	(269)	88
TOTAL*	(59)	100	(473)	100	(305)	100

Chi Square = 6.02 $P < .05$

*9 Missing Observations

TABLE 39: REPORTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL OCCASIONS AMONG RESPONDENTS BY THEIR MARITAL STATUS
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(5)	8	(13)	3	(17)	7
No Transportation Problems Reported	(46)	92	(422)	97	(243)	93
TOTAL*	(51)	100	(435)	100	(260)	100

Chi Square = 6.07 P <.05

*100 Missing Observatons. The large number of missing observations reflects the number of respondents who indicated that they did not attend social occasions.

TABLE 40: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY USED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Used Public Transportation	(44)	73	(197)	42	(184)	60
Does Not Use Public Transportation	(16)	27	(277)	58	(124)	40
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(474)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 38.18 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 41: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY USED TAXIS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Used Taxis	(32)	53	(111)	23	(129)	42
Does Not Use Taxis	(28)	47	(364)	77	(179)	58
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 42.42 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 28: NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(37)	62	(275)	58	(119)	39
1	(11)	18	(92)	19	(50)	16
2-4	(7)	12	(69)	15	(89)	29
5+	(5)	8	(39)	8	(49)	16
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 48.51 P <.01

*4 Missing Observations

APPENDIX

OTHER PAPERS IN USCO SERIES

The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

Within the series, seven papers are issue oriented:

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2. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance.
3. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation as Volunteers and Their Interest in Volunteerism.
4. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.
5. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services.
6. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Current Housing Situation and Their Interest in Various Housing Options.
7. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and The Barriers to Their Participation.

Six papers provide profiles of subgroups within the population surveyed:

8. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experience of Those Who are Childless.
9. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Age Differences With Particular Focus on Persons Aged 85+.
10. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experiences of Those Who Are Frail.
11. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Marital Differences With Particular Focus on Those Who Are Single.

12. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Income Group Differences.
13. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Rural-Urban Differences.

The series also includes:

14. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Study Methodology: a paper outlining the background of the study and the research methods employed.
15. Elderly Residents in Ontario: An Overview: a paper summarizing the findings and content of the other fourteen papers in the series.

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APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

Chi Square:	a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.
Cleaning:	a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).
Coding:	a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.
Community Agency/ Service:	all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.
Cross Tabulations:	a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.
Data:	the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.
Dependent Variable:	the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.
Disability:	the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)
Frail:	reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies:	descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.
Friendly Visiting:	a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.
G.I.S.:	Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.
GAINS-A:	Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.
Health Care System:	family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.
Home Care:	a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.
Independent Variables:	the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.
Institutional Settings:	nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.
Instrument:	the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.
Interfering Health Conditions:	health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.
Interview Schedule:	the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity:	an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.
Mean ($\bar{X}$):	the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.
Missing Observations:	instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.
Multiple Response:	a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.
OARS ADL Scale:	specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).
Old Age Security Data Base:	a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension.
Paid Help:	distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.
Personal Care Activities:	activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.
Pretest:	the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married:	individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.
Random Sample:	a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.
Represenativeness:	the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.
S.D.:	a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.
Sample:	part of the population at large, selected for study.
Sample Frame:	the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.
Significant Differences:	determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.
Single:	persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.
Social Contacts:	visits with friends and family or in person.
Socio-Economic:	characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.
Stratified Sample:	a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements:	a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.
Tau:	Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.
Variable:	refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.
Volunteer:	a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

REFERENCE

Maddox, George L. and Karasik, Robin B. eds. Planning Services for Older People Durham, N.C., Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Duke University, 1975. (OARS Questionnaire)

UNITED SENIOR CITIZENS
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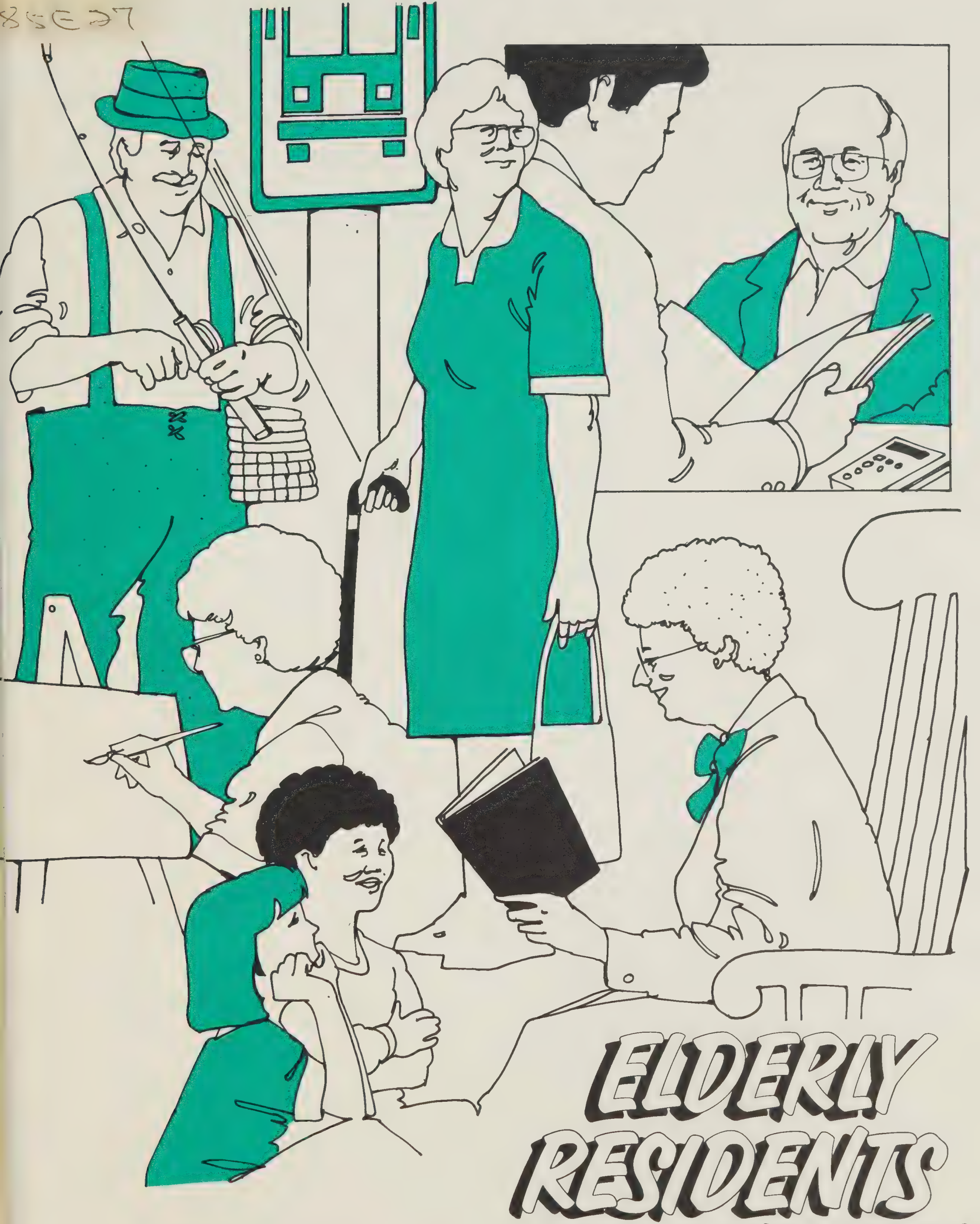
Childless



ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:
THE EXPERIENCES OF THOSE WHO ARE CHILDLESS

Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs
Seniors Secretariat
September, 1985

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Finally, this study could never have been accomplished without the co-operation of the 846 persons whom we interviewed. I only hope that this study sensitively and accurately represents their experience.

Arlene Hoffman, Ph.D.
Research Consultant

SUMMARY

This paper examines the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population surveyed for the USCO study: the respondents who do not have children. Gerontological literature is replete with documentation to suggest that children play a significant role in the lives of older persons. Little documentation, however, is available on the living situation of older persons without children. In this paper a profile of the childless respondents is created. To place the circumstances of these respondents into context, the childless respondents are compared to the respondents with children.

Eighteen percent of the total sample were childless. The proportion of childless respondents across areas ranged from a low of thirteen percent in Penetanguishine, Brockville and Sault Ste. Marie to a high of 25% in Toronto.

The childless respondents differed from the respondents with children along a number of demographic dimensions. The major differences between the groups were found in relation to sex, income, housing type, housing ownership and living mates. The childless respondents were more likely than the respondents with children to be women, to fall into the lowest income group, to reside in apartments, to rent their housing and to live alone.

The childless respondents differed from the respondents with children in their family contacts. The childless respondents maintained the fewest and least frequent contacts with family. Seven percent had no family contacts.

Health differences distinguished the childless respondents as well. The childless respondents were less likely than the respondents with children to report that their health interfered with day to day activities. Compared to those with children, the childless respondents reported fewer health conditions and fewer interfering health conditions.

Despite the differences found in health status of the two groups, the two groups did not exhibit major differences in their use of the health care system. No significant differences between the groups were found in either visits to family doctors or visits to specialists. Differences were found, however, in the rate of hospitalizations. The childless respondents (16%) were less likely than the respondents with children (20%) to be hospitalized. However, once hospitalized, the childless respondents remained in the hospital for a longer period of time.

The ability of the two groups to personally carry out nine activities of daily living (ADLS) was analyzed and compared. The nine ADLS included using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and

out of bed and bathing. No significant differences were found between groups in either the number of respondents who reported difficulty with or an inability to carry out the activities (disabilities) or the type of disabilities reported. Disabilities were indicated by 32% (n=475) of the respondents with children and 27% (n=109) of the respondents without children.

Although the respondents with children were not more likely than the respondents without children to report disabilities, the respondents with children were more likely to receive help with day to day activities. Fifty-one percent of the respondents with children compared to 41% of the respondents without children had assistance.

The sources of assistance used by the two groups differed in a number of ways. It is noteworthy that whereas, the respondents with children received the largest proportion (32%) of assistance from their offspring, the childless respondents received the most substantial proportion (32%) of assistance from paid help. The childless respondents were more likely than the respondents with children to rely on the help of neighbours/friends.

Information was gathered on the interest of the respondents in various housing options. The respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing arrangement that might interest them should they be unable to care for their own needs. The three housing options considered most desirable by all respondents irrespective of group were moving into a supportive housing arrangement, staying home with community services to assist and staying home with the help of family/friends. The childless respondents reported greater interest in moving in with friends than the respondents with children. The respondents with children expressed more interest than the childless respondents in staying at home with the help of family/friends.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey [1]. The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to identify the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population surveyed: the persons who do not have children. Gerontological literature is replete with documentation to suggest that children play a significant role in the lives of older adults. Little documentation however, is available on the living situation of older persons without children. The means by which these individuals manage on a day to day basis is virtually unknown. In this paper a profile of older persons without children is created. Consideration is given to their demographic characteristics, social contacts, recreation, health status, use of the health care system, receipt of assistance, providers of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences and transportation.

This profile is developed with a view to documenting the lives of the childless elderly and the special requirements these individuals have on a day to day basis. In order to place the circumstances of these respondents into context, the childless respondents are compared to the respondents with children.

This paper focuses on the particular characteristics of the childless respondents and the respondents with children. The living situation of the sample as a whole has been described in other papers within this series. The reader should refer to these papers as basic references for any further comparison of the data.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of the persons in the two groups are described in this section. Consideration is given to their community of residence, age, sex, marital status, income and housing.

Eighteen percent (n=150) of the total sample did not have children. Table 1 shows that the proportion of childless respondents varied across areas from a low of thirteen percent in Penetanguishine, Brockville and Sault Ste. Marie to a high of 24% (n=63) in Toronto.

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[1] Refer to the Appendix for a list of other papers in USCO series.

The respondents without children did not differ significantly in age from the respondents with children. Among the childless respondents, 60% (n=90) were aged 62-74, 35% (n=52) were aged 75-84 and five percent (n=8) were aged 85+. Within the group who had children, 60%, (n=413) fell between the ages of 62-74, 32% (n=224) were aged 85-84 and 9% (n=56) were aged 85+.

Sex differences were found across groups. Women comprised a larger proportion (66%, n=79) of the childless respondents than the respondents with children (56%, n=386). Refer to Table 2.

The majority (62%, n=427) of the respondents with children were currently married. Of those without children, just under one-third (32%, n=48) were married. Table 3 shows that within the childless group 38% (n=57) had never been married and 25% (n=38) were widowed. The corresponding percentages for the group with children were one percent (n=3) and 34% (n=237) respectively.

The childless respondents generally had lower monthly incomes than the respondents with children. Table 4 illustrates that the lowest income group (below $600 per month) was composed of one-third (34%, n=48) of the childless respondents compared to one-quarter (26%, n=169) of the respondents with children.

The childless respondents differed from the respondents with children by both the type of housing they lived in and by whether they owned their residence. The childless respondents were more likely than the respondents with children to reside in apartments rather than houses (41%, n=58 compared to 24%, n=169 respectively) and to rent their housing rather than own it (45%, n=67 compared to 30%, n=209 respectively). Refer to Tables 5 and 6.

Although the majority of respondents in both groups resided with other individuals, 47% (n=70) of the childless respondents resided alone. This figure compares to 26% (n=183) of the respondents with children. See Table 7.

3. SOCIAL CONTACTS

Visits with family and friends by telephone and in person were the basis for assessing the respondents' social contacts. This section concentrates on the differences in contacts between the groups.

Fully 99% (n=835) of the total sample maintained contact with at least one family member. One hundred percent of those with children maintained family contacts, ninety-three precent (n=140) of those without children had contacts. Table 8 shows that contact with at least seven family members was maintained by 76% (n=528) of the group with children and 31% (n=46) of the childless group.

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[1] On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

Contacts with family both over the phone and in person were less frequently maintained by the group without children than the group with children. Refer to Tables 9, 10 and 11. Phone contact with family on a weekly basis was maintained by 56% (n=75) of the childless respondents in comparison to 84% (n=579) of the respondents with children. Forty-three percent (n=59) of the childless respondents received visits from family at least once per month. The corresponding figure for the respondents with children was 81% (n=566).

The frequency of contacts with friends did not vary between groups as did the frequency of contacts with family. Among the childless respondents 71% (n=105) had phone contact with friends at least once per week; fourteen percent (n=20) had less than monthly contact. A minimum of 69% (n=100) of the childless respondents were either visited by friends or went to visit friends a minimum of once per month.

4. RECREATIONAL PARTICIPATION

The participation of the respondents in recreational activities was examined with a view to determining whether the groups differed in their actual or desired participation.

The respondents were read a list of 21 recreational activities and were asked about the extent of their involvement in each activity. The activities included solitary activities such as handicrafts, group activities like club participation, activities requiring minimal output of energy like reading and activities requiring greater output like sports. The respondents' participation ranged from one to twenty activities with a mean of twelve. Twenty-eight percent (n=233) of the sample participated in a maximum of ten activities, 21% (n=178) were involved in eleven to twelve activities, 23% (n=199) participated in thirteen to fourteen activities and 28% (n=236) participated in fifteen or more activities. The group with children did not vary from the group without children in either their current involvement or their interest in increased involvement.

5. HEALTH STATUS

This section is devoted to comparing the two groups in terms of their health status. A number of health status measures are used for the comparison: a subjective rating of health, a comparison of health with five years previous, an evaluation of the extent to which health interferes with the accomplishment of day to day activities, a count of the number and type of health and interfering health conditions and a self-evaluation of mobility. All data presented is based on self-reports.

No statistically significant differences were found between groups in the respondents' subjective rating of health. Sixteen percent (n=137) of the total sample said their health was excellent; 45% (n=383) rated their health as good, thirty percent (n=25) considered their health to be fair and nine percent (n=74) stated their health was poor.

When asked to compare their health with five years previous, the responses of the childless group did not differ significantly from the responses of the group with children. Over one-half (56%, n=474) of the respondents said their health had remained the same over the five year period. Ten percent (n=354) said their health improved and 34% (n=290) said it deterioriated.

The childless respondents did differ from the respondents with children in the extent to which they felt health interfered with their day to day activities. The childless respondents were less likely to report interference. Table 12 shows that the respondents who did not consider health to be an interfering factor made up 50% (n=75) of the childless group and 36% (n=255) of the group with children.

All respondents were read a list of 31 health conditions and were asked to indicate if a physician had ever told them that they had the condition. The conditions included arthritis, heart trouble, cancer, dizziness, diabetics, etc. The childless group reported fewer health conditions than the respondents with children. Five or more health conditions were reported by 24% (n=36) of the group without children compared to 36% (n=246) of the group with children. See Table 13.

The respondents with children were more likely than the childless respondents to report interfering health conditions. Table 14 illustrates that at least one interfering condition was identified by 73% (n=504) of the respondents with children compared with 62% (n=93) of the childless respondents.

No differences between groups were found in the perceived level of mobility. The principal measure of mobility in this survey was the ability to walk around the average block. Over ninety percent of the respondents in both groups reported this ability.

6. USE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The respondents' use of the health care system was measured with a view to determining whether the differences in health status found between the groups were reflected in differences in the use of the health care system. Visits to family doctors, specialists and hospitalizations were examined. No differences between groups were found in either the number of visits to family doctors or specialists. Differences were found, however, in relation to the rate of hospitalization.

Ninety-three percent of both groups had been seen by their family doctor during the year prior to being interviewed. Among those in the childless group, fourteen percent (n=21) had been seen by their doctor one time, twenty percent (n=29) had been seen by their doctor two to three times and 69% (n=88) had been seen by their doctor at least four times. Forty percent of both groups had been seen by specialists over the year's period. Within the childless group, forty percent (n=21) had been seen one time, 25% (n=15) had been seen two times and 35% (n=21) had been seen at least three times.

The childless respondents (16%, n=126) were less likely to be hospitalized than the respondents with children (20%, n=556). However, once hospitalized, the childless respondents remained in the hospital for a longer period of time. Table 15 shows that the respondents who spent eight or more days in the hospital numbered fourteen percent (n=20) of the childless group compared to eleven percent (n=75) of the group with children.

7. TYPE OF DISABILITIES AND RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE

The respondents' ability to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items of the OARS instrumental and physical activities of daily living (ADLS) scales.[1] These scales are commonly employed to assess the older persons' capability of performing ADLS. The respondents were presented with nine ADLS and they were asked to indicate if they could personally accomplish each activity without help, with some help or if they were unable to do the activity at all. The nine ADLS assessed included using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. In situations where the respondents indicated that they required assistance with the ADL or that they were personally unable to do the activity, they were defined as having a disability.

No significant difference between groups were identified in the number of persons who reported disabilities. Thirty-two percent (n=475) of the respondents with children reported disabilities compared to 27% (n=109) of the respondents without children. An examination of the type of disabilities reported revealed no statistically significant differences between the groups. Within both groups, the largest number of disabilities reported were in relation to housework, shopping, and meal preparation.

Although the respondents with children were not more likely to report disabilities than the childless respondents, those with children were more likely to be in receipt of asssistance with day to day activities. Help with day to day activities was common to 51% (n=352) of the group with children compared to 41% (n=61) of the childless group.

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[1] Refer to Reference section for the reference to this scale.

Table 17 shows that persons who had help with two or more activities comprised one-third (n=225) of the group with children compared to 24% (n=35) of the childless group.

Table 18 illustrates that the type of activities with which assistance was received did not vary between groups in the case of nineteen of the 22 activities considered. For the remaining three activities, specifically, heavy housework, banking and paying bills, the respondents who had children were the more likely of the two groups to be in receipt of assistance. The childless group received most help with yardwork (27%, n=35), heavy housework (18%, n=27), shopping (13%, n=19) light housework (11%, n=16) and/or house repairs (10%, n=13).

8. PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE

Information was gathered on sources of assistance and as expected, differences were found between the groups. Table 19 shows that the respondents with children received the largest proportion (32%) of assistance from their offspring. The childless respondents, on the other hand, received the most substantial proportion (32%) of assistance from paid help. The childless respondents were more likely than the respondents with children to rely on neighbors/friends. The proportion of assistance that came from neighbours/friends was 23% (childless group) compared to seven percent (group with children). It is noteworthy that no significant differences between groups were found in the proportion of assistance provided by other family members, spouses or community agencies.

When the childless group was examined on its own, differences were found between the married respondents and the unmarried respondents in the sources of assistance used. Table 19a illustrates that the unmarried respondents received the largest proportion (36%) of assistance from paid help. The married respondents received the most significant proportion (59%) of their assistance from spouses. The unmarried group had a greater likelihood than the married group of getting from other family members (32% to 8%) neighbours/friends (28% to 11%) and paid help (36% to 22%). No one in the married group had help from community agencies. By contrast, community agencies provided the unmarried respondents with three percent of all assistance.

In addition to obtaining information on the sources of assistance with the 22 day to day activities, information was gathered on the use of specific community agencies: Visiting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. No significant differences were found between groups in the use of these agencies. These agencies had been employed by eleven percent (n=16) of the childless respondents and ten percent (n=68) of the respondents with children. When marital status was controlled for, no significant differences in use was found between groups.

Table 20 illustrates that the groups did not differ in the use of any one agency. Within both groups the most frequently used agency was that of Visiting Nurses (8%). Home Care, Meals on Wheels, and Friendly Visiting were used by two percent or less of the respondents in both groups.

9. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Upon reporting their receipt of assistance with the 22 day to day activities, the respondents were asked whether they could use any or any additional (hereafter additional) assistance with the activities. No statistically significant differences were found between groups in the number of respondents who voiced requests for additional help. Requests came from 20% (n=29) of the childless respondents and 26% (n=177) of the respondents with children. As well, no differences between groups were found when marital status was controlled for.

Due to the small number of respondents who indicated additional requests, statistical tests could not be administered to determine whether the type of requests made were significantly different between groups. However, an inspection of the data reveals some interesting findings. These findings should be regarded with a great deal of caution in light of the small number of persons in most of the categories.

Table 21 shows that for twelve of the 22 activities considered, requests for additional assistance came from a slightly larger proportion of the respondents who had children. The twelve activities included light housework, heavy housework, making a cup of tea, house repairs, climbing stairs, mobility at home, using the telephone, yardwork, going out in good weather, paying bills, bathing and taking medication. For two activities, namely, mending and going out in bad weather, requests were made by a somewhat larger proportion of the childless respondents. The most frequent requests for additional assistance from both groups were for heavy housework, house repair, and yardwork.

10. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

All older persons residing in their own household may face a time when caring for their own needs increases in difficulty. If this situation occurs, the older persons may consider alternative housing arrangements. The respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing arrangement that might interest them should they be faced with such a situation. The question was posed as such, "If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to care for your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements..."

- moving in with family
- moving in with friends
- staying at home with community services to assist

- staying at home with family/friends to assist
- moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (hereafter supportive housing arrangement).

Table 23 shows that the three housing options considered most desirable by all respondents irrespective of group were moving into a supportive housing arrangement, staying home with the assistance of community services and staying home with family/friends to assist. The most substantial differences between the groups related to the interest in moving in with friends and the interest in staying home with help from family/friends. The childless respondents (7%, n=9) were somewhat more likely than the respondents with children (2%, n=15) to indicate interest in moving in with friends. The respondents who had children, (56%, n=368), however, expressed greater interest than the childless respondents (41%, n=56) in remaining at home with the help of family/friends. Although no statistically significant differences were found between the groups, it is noteworthy that the respondents with children (19%, n=117) had more of a tendency than the childless respondents (13%, n=18) to report an interest in moving in with family should the need arise.

11. TRANSPORTATION

The respondents' use of and problems with transportation were surveyed for this study. Differences between the groups were found in transportation use.

Tables 23, 24 and 25 illustrate the principal modes of transportation used by each group for shopping, medical appointments and social occasions. A comparison of these tables reveals that the largest proportion (a minimum of 29%) of respondents in both groups drove themselves to the activities. Approximately one-quarter of the group with children were driven by family members to the three activities. This figure corresponds to roughly fifteen percent of the respondents without children. Public transportation to these activities was used by close to one-fifth of these without children. The number of respondents with children who used public transportation to these activities fell under fifteen percent.

The respondents were asked to indicate if transportation to any of these activities was a problem. The number of respondents who reported problems did not differ between the two groups. Problems were cited by six percent (n=9) of the childless respondents and ten percent (n=69) of the respondents with children.

12. CONCLUSION

This paper has profiled one group of persons interviewed for the U.S.C.O. Survey: the respondents without children. The distinguishing characteristics of this group include:

- They made up eighteen percent of the sample.
- Geographically, they were more highly concentrated in the City of Toronto, than in the remaining seven communities.
- Women comprised a larger proportion of the childless respondents than the respondents with children.
- They were one-half as likely as the respondents with children to be married; 32% were married, 38% were single and 25% were widowed.
- Their income was generally lower than the respondents with children; one-third had monthly incomes below $600.
- They were more likely than the respondents with children to reside in apartments, to rent their housing and to live alone.
- They were less likely of the two groups to report that health was an interfering factor in their day to day activities.
- They reported fewer health conditions and fewer interfering health conditions than the respondents with children.
- They were less likely to be hospitalized than the respondents with children, but, if hospitalized they remained in the hospital for a longer period of time.
- They were less likely than those with children to receive assistance with day to day activities.
- Their most frequent source of assistance was paid help.
- They were more likely than the respondents with children to rely on the help of neighbours/friends.
- They expressed interest in moving into a supportive housing arrangement, in staying home with the assistance of community services or staying home with family/friends to assist should they be unable to care for their own needs. They were somewhat more likely than the respondents with children to indicate interest in moving in with friends.

- The largest proportion drove themselves shopping, to medical appointments and to social occasions.

This description reveals that the distinguishing characteristics of the childless respondents extend beyond their familial structure to their demographic characteristics, social contacts, health status, disabilities, receipt of assistance, sources of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences, and use of transportation.

Up to this date, little gerontological research has concentrated on the childless elderly. The research that has been done has looked almost exclusively at social support patterns. One of the more prominent concepts used in delineating these patterns has been Shanas' "principle of substitution". The principle emphasizes the primacy of filial support and suggests that older persons will substitute close relationships with more distant kin in the absence of children. Cicerelli (1979), expanding upon the principle, points out that childless elderly will be more likely to consider receiving assistance from non-kin. He states that if childless persons become incapacitated and if they perceive the availability of assistance from community agencies, they will substitute these formal supports for those traditionally provided by the offspring.

Consistent with Cicerelli's suggestion that childless respondents are more likely to seek the assistance of non-kin, the respondents without children in this study received the largest proportion of assistance from paid help. Furthermore, the childless respondents had more than three times the likelihood of the respondents with children of having help from neighbours/friends. Contrary to the implications of the principle of substitution, the groups did not differ in the proportion of assistance received from community agencies or other family members. It is noteworthy that although the respondents with children had over twice the likelihood of the respondents without children of being married, no significant differences were found between groups in the overall proportion of assistance provided by spouses.

This study found that the childless respondents maintained fewer family contacts than the respondents with children. Johnson et al.'s (1981) research revealed similar findings specifically, childless elderly persons irrespective of whether they are married, have more abbrevated family structures.

One of the most interesting findings in this study pertained to requests for assistance. The childless respondents lacked the most conventional source of assistance, that of offspring. As well, only one-third of the childless respondents were married, thus, lacking another conventional source of support. Nevertheless, they seemed to be as able as the respondents with children in arranging to have their requirements for assistance met. No significant differences were found between the respondents with children and those without children with respect to requests for additional assistance.

The significant life style differences between the childless elderly persons and the elderly persons with children discussed in this study point to the importance of granting the childless elderly serious consideration in gerontological research. Johnson et al. argue that this group is of particular importance to consider in light of current demographic trends. They maintain that in the next century with the lower projected birthrate, and with the increasing life expectancy, the number of older persons who are childless will undoubtedly increase. This increase and the implications of it must be brought to the attention of persons planning for the elderly in the decades ahead.

Johnson et al. report that most research on aging and the family has assumed marriage and parenthood. As a result, information about childless older persons and the nature of their support systems is virtually lacking. As well, the fact that family structures assume forms that often deviate from the "traditional" nuclear family has frequently gone unrecognized.

It is hoped that this paper has sensitively highlighted some of the significant differences and similiarities between the childless elderly and the elderly with children. The implications of the findings presented are important. The means by which the childless elderly manage on a day to day basis can offer us critical information on the requirements and coping skills of an increasing segment of the older population.

TABLE 1: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO DID NOT HAVE CHILDREN, BY AREA

	(N)	%
Penetanguishene	(13)	13
Brockville	(6)	13
Cookstown/Athens/Bruce Mines	(23)	14
Sault Ste. Marie	(23)	13
Windsor	(31)	20
Toronto	(63)	24

TABLE 2: SEX OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	MEN		WOMEN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
No Children	(51)	14	(98)	20
Children	(302)	86	(386)	80
TOTAL*	(353)	100	(484)	100

Chi Square = 4.30 $P < .05$

*9 Missing Observations

TABLE 3

MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Single	(57)	38	(3)	1
Married	(48)	32	(427)	62
Widowed	(38)	25	(237)	34
Divorced/ Separated	(7)	5	(26)	3
TOTAL*	(150)	100	(693)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
MONTHLY INCOME	(N)	%	(N)	%
$ 000- 599	(48)	34	(169)	26
$ 600- 799	(25)	18	(91)	14
$ 800- 999	(20)	14	(128)	20
$1000+	(47)	34	(260)	40
TOTAL*	(140)	100	(648)	100

Chi Square = 7.05 P = .05

*58 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: HOUSING TYPE OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(86)	59	(520)	76
Apartment	(58)	41	(169)	24
TOTAL*	(144)	100	(689)	100

Chi Square = 14.11 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 6: HOUSING OWNERSHIP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own Housing	(82)	55	(487)	70
Rents Housing	(67)	45	(209)	30
TOTAL*	(149)	100	(696)	100

Chi Square = 14.01 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 7: LIVING SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(70)	47	(183)	26
Lives With Others	(80)	53	(513)	74
TOTAL*	(150)	100	(696)	100

Chi Square = 23.47 $P < .01$

TABLE 8

TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILY CONTACTS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF FAMILY CONTACTS	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(10)	7	(0)	0
1-6	(94)	62	(168)	24
7-12	(43)	29	(241)	35
13+	(3)	2	(287)	41
TOTAL+	(150)	100	(696)	100

TABLE 9: FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once a Week	(75)	56	(579)	84
1-3 Times Per Month	(26)	19	(79)	11
Less Than Once Per Month	(34)	25	(34)	5
TOTAL*	(135)	100	(692)	100

Chi Square = 73.22 $P < .01$

*19 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FAMILY BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FAMILY	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(58)	43	(489)	70
Less Than Once Per Month	(78)	57	(206)	30
TOTAL*	(136)	100	(695)	100

Chi Square = 37.61 $P < .01$

*15 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: FREQUENCY OF VISITS FROM FAMILY BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS FROM FAMILY	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(59)	43	(566)	81
Less Than Once Per Month	(77)	57	(130)	19
TOTAL*	(136)	100	(696)	100

Chi Square = 85.60 $P < .01$

*14 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH INTERFERES WITH DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EXTENT OF INTERFERENCE	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not At All	(75)	50	(255)	36
A Little	(48)	32	(293)	43
A Great Deal	(27)	18	(147)	21
TOTAL*	(150)	100	(695)	100

Chi Square = 9.35 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 13: NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(15)	10	(48)	7
1-2	(50)	33	(198)	28
3-4	(49)	33	(204)	29
5-6	(14)	9	(129)	19
7+	(22)	15	(117)	17
TOTAL*	(150)	100	(696)	100

Chi Square = 9.59 $P < .05$

TABLE 14: NUMBER OF INTERFERING HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF INTERFERING HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(57)	38	(192)	27
1	(26)	18	(136)	19
2-3	(38)	24	(178)	26
4-5	(17)	11	(88)	13
6+	(12)	9	(102)	15
TOTAL	(150)	100	(696)	100

Chi Square = 9.09 P = .05

TABLE 15

LENGTH OF RESPONDENTS' HOSPITALIZATION BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

LENGTH OF HOSPITALIZATION	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not Hospitalized	(126)	84	(356)	80
1-7 Days	(5)	2	(62)	9
8+ Days	(20)	14	(75)	11
TOTAL*	(151)	100	(693)	100

Chi Square = 7.12 P < .05

*2 Missing Observations

TABLE 16: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED DISABILITIES BY TYPE OF DISABILITY AND BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN

A.D.L.	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Using The Telephone	(8)	5	(50)	8
Shopping	(15)	10	(115)	10
Preparing Meals	(11)	7	(53)	8
Doing Housework	(29)	20	(159)	23
Handling Money	(7)	5	(49)	7
Dressing	(150)	1	(13)	2
Taking Care Of One's Own Appearance	(0)	0	(14)	2
Getting In and Out of Bed	(2)	1	(11)	2
Bathing	(14)	9	(59)	9

TABLE 17: NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(89)	59	(343)	49
1	(26)	17	(127)	18
2-4	(26)	17	(141)	20
5+	(9)	7	(84)	13
TOTAL*	(150)	100	(695)	100

Chi Square = 7.16 P = .05

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 18: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE WITH DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME				
Light Housework	(16)	11	(83)	12
Heavy Housework	(27)	18	(187)	27
Making a Cup of Tea	(3)	2	(17)	2
Meal Preparation	(5)	3	(35)	5
Laundry	(12)	8	(73)	11
House Repairs	(13)	10	(97)	15
Climbing Stairs	(6)	4	(18)	3
Mobility At Home	(1)	1	(8)	1
Using the Telephone	(1)	1	(19)	3
Mending	(3)	2	(23)	3
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME				
Yard Work	(35)	27	(200)	33
Shopping	(19)	13	(114)	16
Going Out in Good Weather	(3)	2	(19)	3
Going Out in Bad Weather	(7)	5	(52)	8
Banking	(4)	3	(61)	9
Paying Bills	(3)	2	(52)	8
Financial Assistance	(0)	0	(21)	3
PERSONAL				
Getting In and Out of Bed	(0)	0	(10)	1
Bathing	(1)	1	(22)	3
Dressing	(0)	0	(9)	1
Cutting Toenails	(11)	7	(66)	10
Taking Medication	(2)	1	(15)	2

TABLE 19: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES TO RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	GROUP	
	NO CHILDREN	CHILDREN
Daughter	0%	19%
Son	0%	13%
Other Family Member	24%	21%
Spouse	16%	16%
Neighbour/Friend	23%	7%
Community Agency	2%	2%
Paid Help	32%	20%
Other	3%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%

TABLE 19a PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES TO RESPONDENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN BY MARITAL STATUS

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	GROUP	
	MARRIED	UNMARRIED
Other Family Member	8%	32%
Spouse	59%	
Neighbour/Friend	11%	28%
Community Agency		3%
Paid Help	22%	36%
Other		1%
TOTAL	100%	100%

TABLE 20: USE OF SPECIFIC COMMUNITY AGENCIES BY RESPONDENTS AND BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Visiting Nurse	(12)	8	(54)	8
Red Cross Homemaker	(7)	5	(26)	4
Home Care	(2)	1	(13)	2
Meals On Wheels	(2)	1	(9)	1
Friendly Visitor	(1)	1	(5)	1

TABLE 21: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BY TYPE OF REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BY WHETHER THEY HAVE CHILDREN

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME				
Light Housework	(8)	5	(45)	7
Heavy Housework	(15)	10	(81)	12
Making a Cup of Tea	(0)	0	(5)	1
Meal Preparation	(4)	3	(17)	3
Laundry	(3)	2	(11)	2
House Repairs	(9)	7	(51)	8
Climbing Stairs	(0)	0	(10)	1
Mobility At Home	(0)	0	(2)	1
Using the Telephone	(0)	0	(5)	1
Mending	(4)	3	(4)	1
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME				
Yard Work	(9)	7	(61)	10
Shopping	(4)	3	(23)	3
Going Out in Good Weather	(0)	0	(3)	1
Going Out in Bad Weather	(4)	3	(15)	2
Banking	(2)	1	(7)	1
Paying Bills	(0)	0	(5)	1
Financial Assistance	(1)	1	(7)	1
PERSONAL				
Getting In and Out of Bed	(1)	1	(2)	1
Bathing	(0)	0	(2)	1
Dressing	(1)	1	(1)	1
Cutting Toenails	(8)	5	(32)	5
Taking Medication	(0)	0	(1)	1

TABLE 22: INTEREST EXPRESSED IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Moving In with Family	(18)	13	(117)	19
Moving In with Friends	(9)	7	(15)	2
Staying at Home with Community Services to Assist	(88)	66	(381)	60
Staying at Home with Family/Friends to Assist	(56)	41	(368)	56
Moving Into a Supportive Housing Arrangement	(98)	69	(452)	69

TABLE 23

PRINCIPAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION USED TO GO SHOPPING BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(43)	30	(122)	19
Drive Self	(46)	32	(300)	45
Driven By Spouse	(13)	9	(76)	11
Driven By Relatives	(6)	4	(95)	14
Driven By Friends	(8)	6	(10)	2
Taxi	(4)	3	(12)	2
Public Transportation	(21)	15	(45)	6
Others	(2)	1	(2)	1
TOTAL*	(143)	100	(662)	100

*41 Missing Observations

TABLE 24

PRINCIPAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION USED TO GET TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(27)	19	(79)	12
Drive Self	(42)	29	(287)	42
Driven By Spouse	(12)	9	(74)	11
Driven By Relatives	(6)	4	(107)	16
Driven By Friends	(10)	7	(10)	2
Taxi	(12)	9	(24)	4
Public Transportation	(28)	20	(83)	12
Others	(5)	3	(4)	1
TOTAL*	(142)	100	(668)	100

*28 Missing Observations

TABLE 25 PRINCIPAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION USED TO GET TO SOCIAL OCCASIONS BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(15)	12	(71)	12
Drive Self	(44)	36	(282)	48
Driven By Spouse	(11)	9	(70)	11
Driven By Relatives	(5)	4	(75)	13
Driven By Friends	(16)	13	(36)	6
Taxi	(3)	3	(8)	1
Public Transportation	(26)	22	(49)	8
Others	(1)	1	(1)	1
TOTAL*	(121)	100	(592)	100

*133 Missing Observations

TABLE 26: USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAVE CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP			
	NO CHILDREN		CHILDREN	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Uses Public Transportation	(92)	61	(333)	48
Does Not Use Public Transportation	(58)	39	(362)	52
TOTAL*	(150)	100	(695)	100

Chi Square = 8.36 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

APPENDIX

OTHER PAPERS IN USCO SERIES

The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

Within the series, seven papers are issue oriented:

1. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Health Status and Use of the Health Care System.
2. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance.
3. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation as Volunteers and Their Interest in Volunteerism.
4. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.
5. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services.
6. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Current Housing Situation and Their Interest in Various Housing Options.
7. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and The Barriers to Their Participation.

Six papers provide profiles of subgroups within the population surveyed:

8. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experience of Those Who are Childless.
9. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Age Differences With Particular Focus on Persons Aged 85+.
10. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experiences of Those Who Are Frail.
11. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Differences By Marital Status With Particular Focus on Those Who Are Single.

12. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Income Group Differences.
13. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Rural-Urban Differences.

The series also includes:

14. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Study Methodology: a paper outlining the background of the study and the research methods employed.
15. Elderly Residents in Ontario: An Overview: a paper summarizing the findings and content of the other fourteen papers in the series.

The intention is that each of the fifteen papers in the series can be studied on its own but, also that the complete series will offer continuity and comprehensive information in an accessible form.

Additional copies of this report, and others in the series, are available in person from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario;

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GLOSSARY

Chi Square:	a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.
Cleaning:	a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).
Coding:	a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.
Community Agency/ Service:	all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.
Cross Tabulations:	a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.
Data:	the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.
Dependent Variable:	the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.
Disability:	the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)
Frail:	reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies:	descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.
Friendly Visiting:	a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.
G.I.S.:	Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.
GAINS-A:	Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.
Health Care System:	family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.
Home Care:	a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.
Independent Variables:	the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.
Institutional Settings:	nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.
Instrument:	the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.
Interfering Health Conditions:	health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.
Interview Schedule:	the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity:	an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.
Mean ($\bar{X}$):	the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.
Missing Observations:	instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.
Multiple Response:	a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.
OARS ADL Scale:	specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).
Old Age Security Data Base:	a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension and the Spouse's Allowance.
Paid Help:	distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.
Personal Care Activities:	activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.
Pretest:	the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married:	individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.
Random Sample:	a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.
Represenativeness:	the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.
S.D.:	a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.
Sample:	part of the population at large, selected for study.
Sample Frame:	the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.
Significant Differences:	determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.
Single:	persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.
Social Contacts:	visits with friends and family or in person.
Socio-Economic:	characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.
Stratified Sample:	a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements:	a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.
Tau:	Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.
Variable:	refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.
Volunteer:	a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

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Frail

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:
THE EXPERIENCES OF THOSE WHO ARE FRAIL

Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs
Seniors Secretariat
September, 1985

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This report is part of a series on the USCO project. The study has involved a variety of individuals, groups and government departments at many levels. The eclectic nature of the study necessitated a variety of resources and it is apparent that the study has benefitted from such support.

A special thank you to the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, specifically to their Research Task Force. They conceived the initial idea and provided assistance in the field co-ordination. Reg Screen and Joyce King (USCO past President and President respectively) must be singled out for their dedication and consistent and continuous support.

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My many thanks to Millie Oake for her careful typing of this manuscript.

Finally, this study could never have been accomplished without the co-operation of the 846 persons whom we interviewed. I only hope that this study sensitively and accurately represents their experience.

Arlene Hoffman, Ph.D.
Research Consultant

SUMMARY

This paper concentrates on the distinguishing characteristics of one segment of the population surveyed for the USCO study: the frail respondents. Frailty is defined in terms of the extent to which there is difficulty or an inability to personally carry out activities of daily living (ADLS). Respondents who reported difficulty with an inability to manage three or more of the nine ADLS assessed are considered to be frail.

Throughout the paper the demographic characteristics, the living situation, and the preferences of the frail respondents are compared to the respondents who report no disabilities (no difficulty managing the nine ADLS) and to the respondents who report some disabilities (difficulty or an inability to manage one or two ADLS).

A comparison of the three groups revealed differences in geographical location, demographic characteristics and living situation. The largest concentration of frail respondents resided in the most populous urban centre: Toronto and the smallest concentration was found in Penetanguishene. Frail respondents were largely advanced in age (85+), women, widowed, within a lower income category, living in apartments, renting their housing and living with others.

The frail respondents did not differ significantly from the other respondents in their contacts with family members. However, the frail respondents did differ in their frequency of contacts with friends such that they maintained less frequent contacts than the respondents in the other groups.

The frail respondents were more likely than any of the other respondents to perceive their health as poor, to perceive a deterioration in their health over a five year period, to report interfering health conditions and to report impaired mobility.

The frail respondents used the health care system more frequently than the other respondents. They made greater use of both family physicians and specialists and had the greatest likelihood of being hospitalized. Twenty-seven percent of the frail respondents had been hospitalized during the year prior to being interviewed compared to seventeen percent of the respondents without disabilities.

The frail respondents by definition expressed difficulty with performing many ADLS. The ADLS that appeared to pose most difficulty for the respondents included handling money, bathing, preparing meals, shopping and heavy housework. Fully 93% of the frail respondents received assistance with day to day activities. Their most frequent source of assistance was children (32%). It is noteworthy that in the group without disabilities the largest proportion of assistance (31%) came from paid help.

The frail respondents were the most likely of all respondents to request additional assistance with day to day activities. It is significant that requests came from eighteen percent of the frail group compared to three percent of the group without disabilities. In the frail group the most prevalent requests were for assistance with light housework, heavy housework, yardwork and shopping.

Information was gathered on the type of housing arrangements the respondents would be interested in should they be unable to care for their own needs. The housing interests expressed differed among groups. The largest proportion (66%) of the frail respondents expressed interest in staying at home with community services to assist. The most popular option among both the group without disabilities (71%) and the group with some disabilities (67%) was moving into a supportive housing arrangment such as a home for elderly persons or a housing project with the availability of services.

The frail respondents used transportation differently than the other respondents. They were the most likely of all groups to rely on family members for rides. The largest proportion of the remaining respondents drove themselves to all activities. The frail respondents (22%) also had the greatest tendency to report transportation problems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey.[1] The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the distinguishing characteristics of one segment of the population surveyed: those who are frail. Frailty is defined in terms of the difficulty or the inability to personally carry out activities of daily living (ADLS). In this study the ability to manage nine ADLS was assessed with the use of selected items of the OARS Instrumental and Physical ADL Scales. The ADLS included in these scales were telephoning, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance and getting in and out of bed. The respondents who indicated difficulty with or an inability to personally manage three or more of the nine ADLS are considered to be frail.

The living situation of the frail respondents are explored in this paper. Under consideration are demographic characteristics, health status, social contacts, receipt of assistance, requests for additional assistance, interest in various housing options and use of transportation.

To put the experiences of the frail respondents into perspective, they are being compared to two other groups:

a) the group of persons who reported no difficulty in personally accomplishing all of the nine ADLS, hereafter the group without disabilities;

b) the group of persons who reported difficulty with or an inability to personally accomplish up to two ADLS, hereafter the group with some disabilities.

The living situation of the three groups are compared throughout the paper. The living situation of the sample as a whole has been described in nine previous papers, each covering a specific topic. The reader should refer to these papers as basic references for any further comparison of the data.

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[1] Refer to Appendix for the list of other papers in USCO series.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section focuses on the distinguishing demographic characteristics of the persons in the three groups. Particular attention is being paid to community of residence, age, sex, marital status, income and housing.

Sixty-nine percent (n=584) of the total sample fall into the group without disabilities, 21% (n=177) comprise the group with some disabilities and ten percent (n=85) make up the frail group. The groups were concentrated in different geographical areas. Table 1 shows that the proportion of frail respondents varied from a low of four percent (n=4) in Penetanguishene to a high of fifteen percent in Toronto. The rural communities: Cookstown, Athens and Bruce Mines housed the largest proportion (77%, n=128) of the respondents without disabilities. Toronto housed the largest proportion (39%, n=103) of the respondents with disabilities.

The three groups differed in age such that advancing age was found to be associated with increased disability. Table 2 illustrates that persons 85+ comprised close to one-quarter (22%, n=18) of the frail group and three percent (n=18) of the group without disabilities. Persons aged 62 to 74 made up one-third (n=28) of the frail group and two-thirds (n=391) of the group without disabilities.

Increased disability was more common among women than men. Refer to Table 3. Women comprised of 54% (n=309) of the group without disabilities, 65% (n=115) of the group with some disabilities and fully 71% (n=60) of those who were frail.

Disability differed with marital status. Table 4 shows that widowed respondents represented a larger proportion of the frail (44%, n=37) group than the group without disabilities (29%, n=166). It is noteworthy that married persons made up the most significant proportion (60%, n=351) of the group without disabilities.

Table 5 shows that the largest proportion (42%, n=32) of the frail respondents fell into the lowest income group (less than $600 per month).[1] By contrast, the largest proportion (43%, n=23%) of the respondents without disabilities had monthly incomes in the highest category, ($1,000 per month).

Of the three groups, the respondents in the frail group were the most likely to live in apartments. Table 6 illustrates that increasingly disability was associated with a greater likelihood of residing in apartments. Residents of apartments included 25% (n=142) of the respondents without disabilities, 32% (n=55) of the respondents with some disabilities, and 36% (n=30) of those who were frail.

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[1] On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

Increased disability accompanied a greater likelihood of renting rather than owning housing. See Table 7. Over one-half (53%, n=45) of the frail population rented their housing, compared to 36%, (n=64) of the population with some disabilities and 29% (n=167) of the population without disabilities.

It is significant to note that the majority of respondents in the frail group (74%, n=163) lived with other persons. Furthermore, they were more likely to live with others than the respondents in the group with some disabilities (62%, n=110) or the group without disabilities (72%, n=420). Refer to Table 8.

3. SOCIAL CONTACTS

The respondents' visits with family and friends by telephone and in person were the basis for assessing social contacts. This section concentrates on the frequency of these contacts.

Fully 99% (n=835) of the respondents maintained contact with at least one family member and 82% (n=687) had contact with at least one child. No significant differences were found across groups in the proportion who maintained these contacts.

The groups were not distinguished by the frequency of phone contacts with family or the frequency of visits from family. But, they were distinguished by the frequency of visits to family. Increased disability was associated with less frequent visits. Approximately two-thirds of both the group without disabilities (n=393) and the group with some disabilities (n=115) visited family members at least once per month. Less than half (48%, n=39) of the frail respondents visited as frequently.

The frequency of contacts with friends varied considerably more among groups than the frequency of contacts with family. Increased disability was related to less frequent contact. See Tables 10, 11 and 12. With respect to phone contact, the percentage of respondents who were in contact with friends less than once per month ranged from a low of fourteen percent (n=84) of the group without disabilities to a high of 25% (n=21) of the frail group. Regarding visits to friends, visits less than monthly were common to 27% (n=156) of the group without disabilities compared to 65% (n=53) of the frail group. Twenty-six percent (n=149) of the group without disabilities received visits from friends less than once per month. This figure corresponds to 41% (n=34) of the frail respondents.

4. HEALTH STATUS

It was noted in the Introduction to this paper that frailty is being defined in terms of disabilities related to the accomplishment of ADLS. This section concentrates on the health status of the respondents in each group and the relationship between health status and disability.

Health status is a composite measure and in this paper it is defined exclusively in terms of perceived health status. The variables comprising the measure include a subjective rating of health, a comparison of health with five years previous, an evaluation of the extent to which health interferes with the accomplishment of day to day activities, a count of the number and type of health conditions, a count of the number and type of interfering health conditions, and a self-evaluation of mobility.

As expected, the health status of the respondents differed considerably across the three groups. Increased disability was found to be associated with a lower subjective rating of health. Table 13 shows that persons who considered their health to be fair or poor made up 81% (n=69) of the frail group, 50% (n=89) of the group with some disabilities and 29% (n=167) of the group without disabilities.

Table 14 illustrates that over three-quarters (78%, n=66) of the frail respondents stated that their health had deteriorated over a five year period. This figure compares to 48% (n=86) of the group with some disabilities and 23% (n=13%) of the group without disabilities. Only two percent (n=2) of the frail group reported an improvement in their health over this period.

The frail respondents were the most likely of all respondents to report that their health interfered with their ability to carry out day to day activities. Table 15 illustrates that persons who stated that their health interfered "a great deal" with the accomplishments of daily activities made up 74% (n=63) of the frail population, 29% (n=51) of the population with some disabilities and ten percent (n=60) of the population without disabilities. Six percent (n=5) of the frail population stated that their health was not an interfering factor.

The respondents in the frail group reported a greater number of health conditions than the respondents in the other groups. Five or more conditions were reported by 62% (n=53) of the frail group, 44% (n=78) of the group with some disabilities and 25% (n=151) of the group without disabilities. Refer to Table 16.

The health conditions reported by the frail respondents are shown on Table 17. The five most prevalent conditions reported were arithritis/rheumatism (71%, n=60) circulation trouble (52%, n=44), dizziness (48%, n=41), bad nerves (45%, n=38) and heart trouble (45%, n=38). More than one-third of the frail respondents reported depression (44%, n=37) high blood pressure (43%, n=36) and/or glaucoma/cataracts (35%, n=30).

At least one-half of the respondents who reported a condition said that the condition interfered with the accomplishment of their day to day activities. The conditions that created greatest interference for the frail respondents included arithritis/rheumatism (90%, n=54), glaucoma/cataracts (93%, n=28), heart trouble (97%, n=37), asthma (100%, n=28), circulation trouble (93%, n=41), stomach disorders (90%, n=19), skin disorders (91%, n=10), heart attach (92%, n=11), bad nerves (92%, n=35), depression (94%, n=35) and dizziness (95%, n=39).

The total number of interfering conditions reported differed considerably across the three groups such that increasing disability accompanied a greater number of interfering conditions. Table 18 shows that at least six interfering conditions were reported by close to one-half (47%, n=38) of the frail group, seventeen percent (n=31) of the group with some disabilities and seven percent (n=45) of the group without disabilities.

The frail respondents were the most likely of all respondents to report impaired mobility. Table 19 shows that the persons who were unable to walk around an average block comprised 48% (n=41) of the frail population, eleven percent (n=20) of the population with some disabilities and three percent (n=19) of the population without disabilities.

5. USE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

In light of the differences in the health status of the three groups, it was not surprising to find that the three groups used the health care system in different ways. The respondents who were frail used the system to a considerably larger extent than the respondents in either of the other groups.

Tables 20 and 21 show the frequency with which the respondents were seen by family physicians and specialists over a twelve month period. Visits to both family physicians and specialists were more frequent with increased disability. The proportion of respondents who had been seen by their family physician four or more times ranged from 75% (n=61) of the frail group to 56% (n=328) of the group without disabilities. Specialists had been seen by 55% (n=47) of the frail respondents compared to 36% (n=214) of the respondents without disabilities. Within the group who had seen specialists, three or more visits were common to almost one-half (49%, n=23) of the frail respondents, compared to 31% (n=66) of the respondents without disabilities.

In addition to visits with family physicians and specialists, significant differences across groups were found with respect to the rate of hospitalization. Increased disability was accompanied by greater likelihood of being hospitalized. Table 22 shows that during the year prior to being interviewed 27% (n=25) of the frail group had been hospitalized in contrast to seventeen percent (n=95) of the group without disabilities. A comparison of the length of hospitalization across groups did not reveal any clear patterns. As well, no significant differences across groups were found in the number of hospital admissions or the reasons for hospitalization.

6. TYPE OF DISABILITIES AND RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE

It was pointed out in the introduction to this paper that the respondents were divided into groups on the basis of the number of disabilities they reported with ADLS. The ADLS investigated were using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. The specific ADLS that created difficulty for the respondents are reviewed in this section. Also included is a discussion of the respondents' receipt of assistance with 22 day to day activities.

The type of disabilities encountered by the respondents who were frail differed somewhat from the type of disabilities reported by the respondents who had some disabilities (1-2 disabilities). Refer to Table 23. None of the respondents in the "some disabilities" group reported disabilities related to the most personal activities: dressing, taking care of one's own appearance or getting in and out of bed. By contrast, a minimum of fifteen percent of the respondents in the frail group reported disabilities with these activities.

The most frequent disabilities reported by the group with some disabilities related to heavy housework (63%, n=110) and shopping (30%, n=53). In the frail group, the five activities that posed most difficulties for the respondents were handling money (53%, n=45), bathing (67%, n=57), preparing meals, shopping (92%, n=77), and heavy housework (93%, n=78).

In light of the number and type of disabilities reported by many of the respondents, it was not surprising to find that the respondents received considerable assistance with their day to day activities. The receipt of assistance with 22 activities was assessed. Included were activities in the home such as housework, meal preparation and laundry, activities outside of the home like yardwork, shopping and banking and personal activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed. Table 24 illustrates that with increased disability the respondents were more likely to be in receipt of assistance with these activities. The respondents who received assistance with at least one activity numbered 93% (n=78) of the frail group compared with 73% (n=129) of the group with some 35% (n=206) of the group without disabilities.

The number of activities with which assistance was received varied substantially among the three groups. Refer to Table 25. The frail respondents received assistance with the largest number of activities; 66% (n=56) received assistance with five or more activities. The proportion of respondents receiving comparable assistance was sixteen percent (n=29) of the group with some disabilities and one percent (n=8) of the group without disabilities.

The type of assistance received by the respondents is illustrated on Table 26. As shown, irrespective of whether assistance was received with activities in the home, activities outside the home or personal care, the likelihood of receiving the assistance was greater among the respondents with a larger number of disabilities.

Two-thirds of the frail group had help with shopping (n=56) and/or heavy housework (n=56). The proportion of the group without disabilities who received this assistance was five percent (n=29) and twelve percent (n=70) respectively. Approximately one-half of the frail respondents were in receipt of assistance with laundry (55%, n=46), banking (56%, n=47) and/or paying bills. Less than three percent of the respondents without disabilities received assistance with these activities. Among the frail respondents, 11% (n=9) had help getting in and out of bed, 26% (n=22) had help bathing, eight percent (n=7) had help dressing and seventeen percent (n=14) had help with medication. A maximum of one percent of the group without disabilities received this assistance.

7. PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE

Just as the groups differed in type of disability and receipt of assistance, the groups differed somewhat in their sources of assistance. Refer to Table 27. In the group without disabilities, the most frequent source of assistance (31%) was paid help. In the group with some disabilities, the largest proportion of assistance was provided by paid help (29%) or children (29%). The respondents in the frail group received most assistance (32%) from children. Increased disability was accompanied by an increase in the provision of assistance from children and spouses and a decrease in the provision of assistance from neighbours/friends. The total proportion of assistance from neighbours/friends ranged from four percent (frail group) to fourteen percent (group without disabilities).

Less than five percent of the total assistance in each group was provided by community agencies. The respondents in the frail group received the largest proportion (four percent) of this assistance.

Information on the use of specific community agencies was gathered. The agencies included Visiting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. When asked about the use of these specific agencies, the number of users far exceeded the number of respondents who claimed to use community agencies with the 22 day to day activities. Use of these agencies was reported by five percent (n=30) of the group without disabilities, fifteen percent (n=27) of the group with some disabilities and 32% (n=27) of the frail group. Among the users in the frail group, 41% (n=11) used one agency, 30% (n=8) used two agencies, 26% (n=8) used three agencies and three percent (n=1) used four agencies.

The use of specific agencies varied. The most frequently used agency was visiting nurses followed by Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. Increased disability was accompanied by greater use of all agencies. Refer to Table 28.

8. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The respondents were asked if they could use any, or any additional (hereafter additional) assistance, with the 22 day to day activities referred to previously. Table 29 illustrates that the requests for assistance differed across groups. Increased disability was found to be associated with a greater likelihood of requests for additional assistance. Requests came from nineteen percent (n=113) of the group without disabilities, thirty percent (n=53) of the group with some disabilities and 45% (n=38) of the frail group.

Increased disability was also associated with a greater number of additional requests. Refer to Table 30. A minimum of three requests came from three percent (n=21) of the group without disabilities, ten percent (n=18) of the group with some disabilities and eighteen percent (n=16) of the frail group.

The requests made are shown on Table 31. It is noteworthy that increased disability accompanied more requests for additional assistance with light housework, heavy housework, meal preparation, shopping, going out in bad weather, getting in and out of bed and cutting toe nails. In the frail group the most prevalent requests were for additional assistance with light housework (20%, n=17), heavy housework (19%, n=16), cutting toe nails (14%, n=12), yardwork (10%, n=8) and shopping (10%, n=8). Requests for additional assistance with personal care activities were minimal (two percent or less with the exception of requests to cut toe nails) (14%, n=12).

Most of the respondents in the "some disabilities" group who requested additional assistance wanted help with activities in the home, specifically heavy housework (17%, n=30), light housework (10%, n=17) and house repairs (9%, n=14). Some requests were made for additional assistance with activities outside of the home: yardwork (11%, n=16) and shopping (6%, n=10).

The requests from the respondents without disabilities more closely resembled the requests of the respondents with some disabilities than the requests of the respondents who were frail. Many requests from the group without disabilities pertained to activities in the home: heavy housework (9%, n=50) and house repairs (7%, n=38). Nine percent (n=46) requested additional assistance with yardwork.

9. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

The possibility exists for all older persons who reside within their own homes that a time may come when they are unable to care for their own needs. If that time does come, the older persons may become faced with finding a suitable arrangement to meet their impending requirements. In this survey the respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing that might interest them. The question was posed as such..."If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to care for your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements:

- moving in with family
- moving in with friends
- staying at home with community services to assist
- staying at home with family/friends to assist
- moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (hereafter supportive housing arrangement).

Table 32 shows the interest expressed by the respondents in each of these housing options. Some noteworthy differences were found among the groups. The housing option that attracted the interest of the largest proportion (66%, n=49) of frail respondents was staying at home with community services to assist. By contrast, the most popular option among both the group without disabilities (71%, n=399) and the group with some disabilities (67%, n=109) was moving into a supportive housing arrangement. It is significant that interest in a supportive housing arrangement decreased with increased disability. Increased disability on the other hand was accompanied by greater interest in moving in with family members.

10. TRANSPORTATION

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated in using those modes were assessed in this survey. The data revealed significant differences across groups in both the modes used and the problems experienced.

The transportation modes used for shopping, medical appointments and social occasions were documented and can be found on Tables 33, 34, and 35. A comparison of the three Tables shows that the respondents tended to use the same type of transportation to each of the activities. The largest proportion (a minimum of 41%) of the frail respondents were driven by family to all activities. The largest proportion (a minimum of 29%) of the remaining respondents drove themselves to the activities.

When asked if transportation to shopping, medical appointments or social occasions was a problem, nine percent (n=76) of the total sample answered in the affirmative. Considerable differences in the responses were found across groups such that reports of transportation problems were more prevalant among the respondents with increased disability. Problems were reported by seven percent (n=39) of the group without disabilities, twelve percent (n=21) of the group with some disabilities and 22% (n=18) of the frail group. See Table 36.

Tables 37, 38, and 39 illustrate the number of respondents within each group who reported transportation problems. Transportation problems with shopping and medical appointments were cited by approximately one-fifth (20%, n=13 and 18%, n=14 respectively) of the frail group compared to less than five percent (four percent, n=23 and three percent, n=15 respectively) of the respondents without disabilities. Problems with transportation to social occasions were cited by the fewest respondents: eleven percent (n=6) of the frail group, and three percent (n=17) of the group without disabilities. The type of transportation problems reported did not differ across the groups. For a discussion of these problems refer to report entitled: Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.

The three groups differed in their use of public transportation such that with increased disability, the respondents were less likely to use public transportation. Users of public transportation numbered 53% (n=309) of the group without disabilities, compared to 34% (n=29) of the frail group. See Table 40.

The frail group was the most likely of the three groups to use personal assistance when travelling by public transit. Table 41 shows that assistance was used by over one-half (52%, n=15) of the frail group compared to nine percent (n=27) of the group without disabilities. Close to one-third (31%, n=9) of the respondents in the frail group always used personal assistance when travelling by public transportation.

Three percent (n=14) of the total sample indicated that they could use additional assistance with public transportation. No differences were found in the responses of persons with greater or lesser disability.

The respondents who did not use public transportation were asked for the reason. Table 42 shows that the most prevalant reason reported was the absence of need. This reason was mentioned by 79% (n=211) of the group without disabilities, compared to 35% (n=19) of the frail group. Within the frail group almost one-third (31%, n=17) of the respondents stated that they did not travel by public transportation because they needed assistance and did not have it. One-fifth (n=11) of those who were frail said they were simply unable to use public transportation.

The use of taxis by the respondents differed across groups. Taxi users numbered 28% (n=166) of the group without disabilities and 40% (n=33) of the frail group. Twenty-five percent (n=68) of the persons who travelled by taxis had the assistance of an accompanying individual. The use of assistance varied with disability such that increased disability was associated with greater use of assistance. Table 43 illustrates that assistance was used by 66% (n=23) of the frail population and 18% (n=30) of the population without disabilities.

The taxi users were asked if they required any assistance or further assistance. Differences across groups were found in the responses. The frail respondents (27%, n=9) were the most likely to indicate the need for further assistance. By comparison, three precent (n=5) of the group without disabilities said they could use assistance. No differences among groups were found in the type of assistance requested.

All respondents were asked: "If you could get further assistance with transportation, would you be interested in having it and if so, what type of assistance would you be interested in?" Nineteen percent (n=155) answered in the affirmative. Table 44 illustrates that the most prevalant request among the respondents who reported disabilities (44%, n=31) was for an accompanying individual. In the group without disabilities the respondents (47%, n=38) frequently requested a transportation service that would pick them up at home.

11. CONCLUSION

This paper has examined the distinguishing characteristics of three groups of persons interviewed for the USCO Survey: the frail respondents, the respondents with some disabilities and the respondents without disabilities. The findings revealed that the three groups could be distinguished by their demographic characteristics, health status, type of disabilities, receipt of assistance, sources of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences and use of transportation.

To summarize the characteristics of the frail respondents:

- They made up 10% of the sample.
- Geographically, they were more highly concentrated in the city of Toronto than in the remaining seven communities. (This finding is particularly significant in light of the fact that the response rate in Toronto (56%) was lower than the response rates in the rural areas (67%), Penetanguishene (65%) Brockville (79%), and Sault Ste. Marie (58%), but, it was slightly higher than the response rate in Windsor (50%).
- They were generally older than the rest of the respondents and likely to be widowed.
- Women were more likely to be frail than men. (To put this finding into context, it must be recognized that women comprised a larger proportion of the oldest respondents (85+) across groups. Among the respondents without disabilities, women comprised 39% (n=7) of the 85+ group. In the group with some disabilities, women made up 74% (n=20) of the persons aged 85+. In the frail group, women comprised fully 78% (n=14) of the persons 85+.)
- Their income was lower than the income of the respondents in the remaining groups; 42% of the frail group had monthly incomes below $600. (It must be noted that increasing age was accompanied by lower income. The respondents who received less than $600 per month comprised 18% (n=84) of the 62-74 group, 40% (n=103) of the 75-84 group and 54% (n=29) of the 85+ group. Concentrating on the persons aged 85+, we find that those falling into the lowest income group (less than $600 per month) included 47% (n=7) of those without disabilities 59% (n=13) of those with some disabilities and 53% (n=9) of the frail group).
- They were the most likely of all respondents to reside in apartments and to rent their housing.
- They were the most likely of all respondents to reside with other persons: 74% lived with others.
- Of the three groups, they least frequently visited family members, and least frequently had contact with friends.

- They perceived their health to be lower than the respondents in the other groups.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to report that their health interfered with their ability to carry out day to day activities.

- They had a greater number of health conditions and interfering health conditions than the respondents in the other groups.

- Their mobility was more imparied than those in the other groups.

- They were seen by family physicians and specialists more frequently than the other respondents.

- They had the greater likelihood of being hospitalized.

- They were more likely than the other respondents to report disabilities related to personal care activities.

- The majority of them had disabilities related to handling money, bathing, preparing meals, shopping and heavy housework.

- The frail respondents were more likely to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities than the respondents in the other groups.

- They received the greatest proportion of assistance with personal care activities.

- They received the greatest proportion of assistance from children.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to use the assistance of community agencies.

- They made more requests for additional assistance with day to day activities than the respondents in the remaining groups and the largest number of their requests were for help with light housework, heavy housework, cutting toe nails, yardwork and shopping.

- Should they be unable to care for their own needs, they expressed the most interest in staying at home with community services to assist.

- They were generally driven by relatives to places when going shopping, to medical appointments or to social activities.

- They were the most likely to report transportation problems.

- They were the least likely to use public transportation but, were the most likely to use the assistance of other individuals when travelling by public transit.

- They were the most likely to use assistance when travelling by taxis.

The characteristics of the frail respondents presented above suggest the vulnerability of this segment of the population. The characteristics that contribute to their vulnerability include their disproportionate difficulty in carrying out day to day activities, their disproportionate reliance on other individuals for help, and their disproportionate requests for additional assistance. The large number of frail respondents who fall into the lowest income category may be particularly vulnerable because their ability to purchase extra services is undoubtedly limited. The vulnerability of these respondents rests with the fact that should they be unable to arrange for adequate supportive assistance, they run the risk of losing their ability to remain within their own homes and outside of institutional settings.

With the aging of the population in Ontario, the frail elderly population will grow. Their needs for supportive assistance will multiply. The data presented in the paper provides us with solid information on how this population is managing on a day to day basis. Still, much about this population is unknown. It is unknown because few efforts have been made to survey the frail elderly as this population is frequently difficult to locate and often hard to interview. Despite the associated research dilemmas, further work should be carried out on this population. The importance of exploring these areas extends beyond the challenge of research to policy formulation, policy that will pertain to the most needy segment of the elderly population.

TABLE 1: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL, BY AREA

AREA	GROUP							
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL		TOTAL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Penetanguishene	(70)	70	(26)	26	(4)	4	(100)	100
Brockville	(34)	71	(8)	17	(6)	12	(48)	100
Cookstown/Athens/ Bruce Mines	(129)	77	(29)	17	(10)	6	(168)	100
Sault Ste. Marie	(78)	71	(23)	21	(9)	8	(110)	100
Windsor	(111)	72	(28)	18	(16)	10	(155)	100
Toronto	(162)	61	(63)	24	(40)	15	(265)	100

TABLE 2: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

AGE GROUP	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
62-74	(391)	67	(84)	48	(28)	33
75-84	(173)	30	(65)	37	(38)	45
85+	(18)	3	(28)	15	(18)	22
TOTAL*	(582)	100	(177)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 78.66 $P < .01$

* 3 Missing Observations

TABLE 3: SEX OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Men	(268)	46	(61)	35	(24)	29
Women	(309)	54	(115)	65	(60)	71
TOTAL*	(577)	100	(176)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 14.77 $P < .01$

*9 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MARITAL STATUS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Single	(44)	8	(11)	6	(5)	6
Married	(351)	60	(87)	49	(36)	44
Widowed	(166)	29	(70)	40	(37)	44
Divorced/ Separated	(22)	3	(9)	5	(5)	6
TOTAL*	(583)	100	(177)	(100)	(83)	100

Chi Square = 17.76 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MONTHLY INCOME	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
$000-$599	(133)	24	(52)	32	(32)	42
$600-$799	(81)	15	(22)	14	(13)	16
$800-$999	(98)	18	(33)	21	(17)	22
$1,000+	(238)	43	(54)	33	(15)	20
TOTAL*	(550)	100	(161)	100	(77)	100

Chi Square = 21.75 $P < .01$

*58 Missing Observations

TABLE 6: HOUSING TYPE OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(435)	75	(118)	68	(53)	64
Apartment	(142)	25	(55)	32	(30)	36
TOTAL*	(577)	100	(173)	100	(83)	100

Chi Square = 7.14 $P < .05$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 7: HOUSING OWNERSHIP OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own Housing	(417)	71	(112)	64	(40)	47
Rent Housing	(167)	29	(64)	36	(45)	53
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(176)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 33.28 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 8: LIVING SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(164)	28	(67)	38	(22)	26
Lives With Others	(420)	72	(110)	62	(63)	74
TOTAL	(584)	100	(177)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 6.91 $P < .05$

TABLE 9: FREQUENCY WITH WHICH FAMILY MEMBERS WERE VISITED AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FAMILY MEMBERS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(393)	68	(115)	67	(39)	48
Less Than Once Per Month	(185)	32	(57)	33	(42)	52
TOTAL*	(578)	100	(172)	100	(81)	100

Chi Square= 12.54 $P < .01$

*15 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT WITH FRIENDS AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT WITH FRIENDS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Once a Week+	(404)	70	(116)	66	(45)	54
1-3 Times Per Month	(89)	16	(30)	17	(18)	21
Less Than Once Per Month	(84)	14	(29)	17	(21)	25
TOTAL*	(577)	100	(175)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 9.70 $P < .05$

*10 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: FREQUENCY WITH WHICH FRIENDS WERE VISITED AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FRIENDS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(424)	73	(107)	61	(28)	35
Less Than Once Per Month	(156)	27	(68)	39	(53)	65
TOTAL*	(580)	100	(175)	100	(81)	100

Chi Square = 50.91

*10 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: FREQUENCY OF VISITS FROM FRIENDS AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS FROM FRIENDS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(432)	74	(126)	72	(50)	59
Less Than Once Per Month	(149)	26	(50)	28	(34)	41
TOTAL*	(581)	100	(176)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 8.11 $P < .01$

*5 Missing Observations

TABLE 13: SELF-RATING OF HEALTH AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES OR WHO WHERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

SELF-RATING OF HEALTH	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Excellent	(113)	19	(21)	12	(5)	5
Good	(304)	52	(66)	38	(11)	14
Fair	(149)	26	(65)	37	(37)	44
Poor	(18)	3	(24)	13	(32)	37
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(176)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 158.38 P < .01

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 14: COMPARISON OF HEALTH WITH PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMPARISON OF HEALTH WITH FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Better	(65)	12	(15)	9	(2)	2
About The Same	(381)	65	(76)	43	(17)	20
Worse	(138)	23	(86)	48	(66)	78
TOTAL	(584)	100	(177)	100	(85)	100

TABLE 15: SELF-EVALUATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS ACTIVITIES	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not At All	(291)	50	(37)	21	(5)	6
A Little	(233)	40	(88)	50	(17)	20
A Great Deal	(60)	10	(51)	29	(63)	74
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(176)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 225.85 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 16: NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0-2	(255)	44	(45)	25	(11)	13
3-4	(178)	31	(54)	31	(21)	25
5-6	(86)	15	(42)	24	(15)	18
7+	(65)	10	(36)	20	(38)	44
TOTAL	(584)	100	(177)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 87.28 P < .01

TABLE 17: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF FRAIL RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPE OF HEALTH CONDITIONS THEY REPORTED AND THE INTERFERENCE OF THE CONDITIONS

CONDITION	RESPONDENTS REPORTING CONDITION (N)	%	RESPONDENTS REPORTING INTERFERING CONDITION (N)	%
Arthritis/Rheumatism	(60)	71	(54)	90
Glaucoma/Cataracts	(30)	35	(28)	93
Asthma	(9)	11	(9)	100
Emphysema	(15)	18	(13)	86
T.B.	(2)	2	(1)	50
High Blood Pressure	(36)	43	(29)	81
Heart Trouble	(38)	45	(37)	97
Circulation Trouble	(44)	52	(41)	93
Diabetes	(15)	18	(10)	67
Ulcers	(10)	11	(7)	70
Stomach Disorder	(21)	25	(19)	90
Liver Disease	(4)	4	(2)	50
Kidney Disease	(9)	11	(6)	67
Urinary Disorder	(15)	18	(11)	73
Cancer	(8)	10	(5)	63
Anemia	(7)	9	(5)	71
Stroke	(14)	17	(11)	78
Parkinsons Disease	(6)	7	(6)	100
Epilepsy	(1)	1	(0)	0
Cerebral Palsy	(0)	0	-	-
Multiple Scherosis	(0)	0	-	-
Muscular Distrophy	(0)	0	-	-
Polio	(1)	1	(1)	100
Thyroid Condition	(7)	9	(3)	43
Skin Disorder	(11)	13	(10)	91
Speech Impairment	(5)	6	(3)	60
Heart Attack	(12)	15	(11)	92
Bad Nerves	(38)	45	(35)	92
Depression	(37)	44	(35)	94
Varicose Veins	(15)	18	(11)	73
Dizziness	(41)	48	(39)	95

TABLE 18: NUMBER OF INTERFERING CONDITIONS REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF INTERFERING HEALTH CONDITIONS	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0-1	(343)	59	(54)	31	(14)	15
2-3	(139)	24	(59)	33	(18)	21
4-5	(57)	10	(33)	19	(15)	17
6+	(45)	7	(31)	17	(38)	47
TOTAL	(584)	100	(177)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 141.08 $P < .01$

TABLE 19: ABILITY TO WALK AROUND AVERAGE BLOCK AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ABILITY TO WALK AROUND BLOCK	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Able To Walk Around Block	(564)	97	(157)	89	(44)	52
Unable To Walk Around Block	(19)	3	(20)	11	(41)	48
TOTAL*	(583)	100	(177)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 175.95 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 20: NUMBER OF TIMES FAMILY DOCTOR WAS SEEN OVER A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF TIMES FAMILY DOCTOR WAS SEEN	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0-1	(133)	23	(22)	12	(10)	12
2-3	(121)	21	(35)	20	(11)	13
4-9	(157)	27	(49)	28	(20)	24
10-12	(115)	20	(42)	24	(19)	23
13+	(56)	9	(25)	16	(22)	28
TOTAL*	(582)	100	(173)	100	(82)	100

Chi Square = 33.17 $P < .01$

*9 Missing Observations

TABLE 21: NUMBER OF TIMES SPECIALISTS WERE SEEN OVER A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF TIMES SPECIALISTS WERE SEEN	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
1	(85)	40	(26)	36	(16)	34
2	(63)	29	(14)	19	(8)	17
3-4	(43)	20	(16)	22	(11)	23
5+	(23)	11	(17)	23	(12)	26
TOTAL	(214)	100	(73)	100	(47)	100

Chi Square = 13.47 $P < .05$

TABLE 22: NUMBER OF DAYS IN HOSPITAL OVER A ONE YEAR PERIOD AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DAYS IN HOSPITAL	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(487)	84	(134)	76	(61)	73
1-7	(44)	8	(13)	7	(9)	11
8+	(51)	8	(30)	17	(14)	16
TOTAL*	(582)	100	(177)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 13.33 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 23: TYPE OF DISABILITY*REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS WHO HAD SOME DISABILITIES OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

DISABILITY	GROUP			
	SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Use Telephone	(26)	15	(32)	38
Shopping	(53)	30	(77)	92
Prepare Meals	(14)	8	(50)	60
Heavy Housework	(110)	63	(78)	93
Handle Money	(11)	7	(45)	53
Dress	(0)	0	(14)	16
Take Care Of Appearance	(0)	0	(14)	16
Get In And Out Of Bed	(0)	0	(13)	15
Bath	(15)	8	(57)	67

*Disability is here defined as the requirement for assistance in carrying out the activity or the inability to do the activity.

TABLE 24: RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE WITH DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
No Help Received	(378)	65	(48)	27	(6)	7
Help Received	(206)	35	(129)	73	(78)	93
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(177)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 149.08 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 25: NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH HELP WAS RECEIVED	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
No Help Received	(378)	65	(48)	27	(6)	7
1	(111)	19	(34)	19	(8)	10
2-4	(87)	15	(66)	38	(14)	17
5+	(8)	1	(29)	16	(56)	66
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(177)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 401.95 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 26: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, AND WHO WERE FRAIL BY THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(22)	4	(40)	23	(37)	44
Heavy Housework	(70)	12	(88)	50	(56)	67
Making a Cup of Tea	(1)	1	(3)	2	(16)	19
Meal Preparation	(1)	1	(9)	5	(30)	36
Laundry	(12)	2	(27)	15	(46)	55
House Repairs	(51)	9	(34)	21	(25)	36
Climbing Stairs	(3)	1	(15)	3	(16)	19
Mobility at Home	(1)	1	(1)	1	(7)	8
Using the Telephone	(0)	0	(4)	2	(16)	19
Mending	(5)	1	(3)	2	(18)	21
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(122)	23	(70)	47	(43)	64
Shopping	(29)	5	(48)	27	(56)	67
Going Out in Good Weather	(3)	1	(2)	1	(17)	22
Going Out in Bad Weather	(9)	2	(18)	10	(32)	43
Banking	(7)	1	(11)	6	(47)	56
Paying Bills	(3)	1	(10)	6	(42)	50
Financial Assistance	(1)	1	(5)	2	(15)	18
PERSONAL						
Getting In and Out of Bed	(0)	0	(1)	1	(9)	11
Bathing	(0)	0	(1)	1	(22)	26
Dressing	(1)	1	(1)	1	(7)	8
Cutting Toenails	(27)	5	(20)	11	(30)	36
Taking Medication	(2)	1	(1)	1	(14)	17

TABLE 27: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS TO RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

PROVIDER OF ASSISTANCE	GROUP		
	NO DISABILITIES	SOME DISABILITIES	FRAIL
Daughter	10%	18%	20%
Son	12%	11%	12%
Other Family Member	22%	17%	24%
Spouse	8%	12%	24%
Neighbour/Friend	14%	11%	4%
Community Agency	2%	1%	4%
Paid Help	31%	29%	11%
Other	1%	1%	1%

TABLE 28: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO USED SPECIFIC COMMUNITY AGENCIES BY GROUP

COMMUNITY AGENCY	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES N = 584		SOME DISABILITIES N = 177		FRAIL N = 85	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Visiting Nurse	(24)	4	(20)	11	(22)	26
Red Cross Homemaker	(9)	2	(9)	5	(15)	18
Home Care	(4)	1	(3)	2	(8)	9
Meals On Wheels	(2)	1	(5)	3	(4)	5
Friendly Visitor	(1)	1	(2)	1	(3)	4

TABLE 29: REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
No Requests For Additional Assistance	(471)	81	(124)	70	(46)	55
Requests For Additional Assistance	(113)	19	(53)	30	(38)	45
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(177)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 30.99 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 30: NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(471)	81	(124)	70	(46)	55
1	(59)	10	(19)	11	(13)	16
2	(33)	6	(16)	9	(9)	11
3+	(21)	3	(18)	10	(16)	18
TOTAL*	(584)	100	(177)	100	(84)	100

Chi Square = 63.59 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 31: TYPE OF REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES N = 584		SOME DISABILITIES N = 177		FRAIL N = 84	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(19)	3	(17)	10	(17)	20
Heavy Housework	(50)	9	(30)	17	(16)	19
Making a Cup of Tea	(3)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1
Meal Preparation	(9)	2	(5)	3	(7)	8
Laundry	(5)	1	(3)	2	(6)	7
House Repairs	(38)	7	(14)	9	(8)	9
Climbing Stairs	(2)	1	(6)	3	(2)	2
Mobility at Home	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	1
Using the Telephone	(0)	0	(3)	2	(2)	2
Mending	(3)	1	(3)	2	(2)	2
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(46)	9	(16)	11	(8)	10
Shopping	(9)	2	(10)	6	(8)	10
Going Out in Good Weather	(1)	1	(2)	1	(0)	0
Going Out in Bad Weather	(5)	1	(7)	4	(7)	8
Banking	(3)	1	(2)	1	(4)	5
Paying Bills	(1)	1	(2)	1	(1)	1
Financial Assistance	(5)	1	(2)	1	(0)	0
PERSONAL						
Getting In and Out of Bed	(0)	0	(1)	1	(2)	2
Bathing	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	2
Dressing	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1)	1
Cutting Toenails	(16)	3	(12)	7	(12)	14
Taking Medication	(0)	0	(10)	0	(1)	1

TABLE 32: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS BY GROUP

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES N = 589		SOME DISABILITIES N = 177		FRAIL N = 85	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Moving In With Family[1]	(90)	17	(27)	18	(18)	25
Moving In With Friends[2]	(18)	3	(2)	1	(4)	5
Staying Home With Community Services To Assist[3]	(327)	61	(93)	59	(49)	66
Staying Home With Family/ Friends To Assist[4]	(295)	53	(88)	54	(41)	55
Supportive Housing Arrangement[5]	(399)	71	(109)	67	(42)	55

[1] 79 Missing Observations

[2] 49 Missing Observations

[3] 78 Missing Observations

[4] 54 Missing Observations

[5] 44 Missing Observations

TABLE 33: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR SHOPPING AMONG THE RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(114)	20	(36)	21	(15)	25
Drive Self	(290)	50	(54)	32	(2)	3
Driven by Spouse	(55)	9	(23)	14	(11)	18
Driven by Relatives	(44)	8	(32)	19	(25)	41
Driven by Friends	(8)	2	(7)	4	(3)	5
Taxi	(8)	1	(7)	4	(1)	2
Public Transportation	(53)	9	(11)	6	(2)	3
Community Agency	(2)	1	-	-	(2)	3
TOTAL*	(574)	100	(170)	100	(61)	100

*41 Missing Observations

TABLE 34: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AMONG THE RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(76)	13	(25)	15	(9)	12
Drive Self	(277)	49	(50)	29	(2)	3
Driven by Spouse	(52)	9	(21)	12	(13)	17
Driven by Relative	(47)	8	(31)	18	(35)	45
Driven by Friends	(10)	2	(7)	4	(3)	4
Taxi	(13)	2	(14)	8	(9)	12
Public Transportation	(89)	16	(19)	11	(3)	4
Community Agency	(6)	1	(4)	3	(3)	3
TOTAL*	(570)	100	(171)	100	(77)	100

*28 Missing Observations

TABLE 35: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS AMONG THE RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(65)	12	(17)	12	(4)	8
Drive Self	(277)	53	(46)	34	(3)	6
Driven by Spouse	(55)	10	(19)	14	(7)	16
Driven by Relatives	(33)	6	(24)	18	(23)	48
Driven by Friends	(32)	6	(14)	9	(6)	12
Taxi	(6)	1	(4)	3	(1)	2
Public Transportation	(58)	11	(13)	10	(4)	8
Community Agency	(2)	1	0	-	0	-
TOTAL*	(528)	100	(137)	100	(48)	100

*133 Missing Observations

TABLE 36: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS BY GROUP

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(39)	7	(21)	12	(18)	22
No Transportation Problems Reported	(543)	93	(156)	88	(63)	78
TOTAL*	(582)	100	(177)	100	(81)	100

Chi Square = 22.10 $P < .01$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 37: REPORTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO SHOPPING AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(23)	4	(13)	8	(13)	20
No Transportation Problems Reported	(555)	96	(161)	92	(52)	80
TOTAL*	(578)	100	(174)	100	(65)	100

Chi Square = 27.45 $P < .01$

*29 Missing Observations

TABLE 38: REPORTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		NO DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(15)	3	(11)	6	(14)	18
No Transportation Problems Reported	(562)	97	(164)	94	(65)	82
TOTAL*	(577)	100	(175)	100	(79)	100

Chi Square = 35.73 $P < .01$

*15 Missing Observations

TABLE 39: REPORTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL OCCASIONS AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(17)	3	(11)	7	(6)	11
No Transportation Problems Reported	(525)	97	(137)	93	(51)	89
TOTAL*	(542)	100	(148)	100	(57)	100

*99 Missing Observations - the large number of missing observations reflects the number of respondents who indicated that they did not attend social occasions.

TABLE 40: USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Used Public Transportation	(309)	53	(87)	49	(29)	34
Did Not Use Public Transportation	(274)	47	(90)	51	(56)	66
TOTAL*	(583)	100	(177)	100	(85)	100

Chi Square = 10.70 $P < .01$

*1 Missing Observation

TABLE 41 FREQUENCY WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE IS USED WHEN TRAVELLING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS USED	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Always	(7)	2	(5)	6	(9)	31
Sometimes	(20)	7	(11)	13	(6)	21
Never	(282)	91	(71)	81	(14)	48
TOTAL*	(309)	100	(87)	100	(29)	100

*421 Missing Observations - reflects the number of respondents who did not travel by public transportation

TABLE 42: REASONS FOR NOT USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AMONG THE RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
No Need For Public Transportation	(211)	79	(53)	59	(19)	35
Too Expensive	(2)	1	(1)	1	(2)	4
Not Conveniently Located	(12)	5	(3)	3	(2)	4
Needs Assistance And Has None	(9)	4	(9)	9	(17)	31
Unable to Use It	(0)	0	(6)	7	(11)	20
No Public Transportation	(32)	11	(18)	21	(4)	6
TOTAL	(266)	100	(90)	100	(55)	100

TABLE 43: FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THE ASSISTANCE OF ANOTHER PERSON WAS USED WHEN TRAVELLING BY TAXIS AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS USED	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Always/Sometimes	(30)	18	(16)	22	(22)	66
Never	(136)	82	(56)	78	(11)	34
TOTAL	(166)	100	(72)	100	(33)	100

Chi Square = 72.69 P < .01

TABLE 44: TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE REQUESTED BY RESPONDENTS WHO HAD NO DISABILITIES, SOME DISABILITIES, OR WHO WERE FRAIL
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED	GROUP					
	NO DISABILITIES		SOME DISABILITIES		FRAIL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Accompanying Individual	(21)	26	(18)	45	(13)	43
Transportation Service That Would Pick Them Up At Home	(38)	47	(9)	22	(7)	24
Financial Assistance With Taxis	(22)	27	(13)	33	(10)	33
TOTAL*	(81)	100	(40)	100	(30)	100

Chi Square = 28.77 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

APPENDIX

OTHER PAPERS IN USCO SERIES

The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

Within the series, seven papers are issue oriented:

1. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Health Status and Use of the Health Care System.

2. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance.

3. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation as Volunteers and Their Interest in Volunteerism.

4. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.

5. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services.

6. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Current Housing Situation and Their Interest in Various Housing Options.

7. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and The Barriers to Their Participation.

Six papers provide profiles of subgroups within the population surveyed:

8. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experience of Those Who are Childless.

9. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Age Differences With Particular Focus on Persons Aged 85+.

10. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experiences of Those Who Are Frail.

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14. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Study Methodology: a paper outlining the background of the study and the research methods employed.
15. Elderly Residents in Ontario: An Overview: a paper summarizing the findings and content of the other fourteen papers in the series.

The intention is that each of the fifteen papers in the series can be studied on its own but, also that the complete series will offer continuity and comprehensive information in an accessible form.

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APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

Chi Square:	a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.
Cleaning:	a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).
Coding:	a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.
Community Agency/ Service:	all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.
Cross Tabulations:	a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.
Data:	the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.
Dependent Variable:	the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.
Disability:	the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)
Frail:	reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies:	descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.
Friendly Visiting:	a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.
G.I.S.:	Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.
GAINS-A:	Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.
Health Care System:	family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.
Home Care:	a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.
Independent Variables:	the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.
Institutional Settings:	nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.
Instrument:	the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.
Interfering Health Conditions:	health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.
Interview Schedule:	the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity:	an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.
Mean ($\bar{X}$):	the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.
Missing Observations:	instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.
Multiple Response:	a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.
OARS ADL Scale:	specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).
Old Age Security Data Base:	a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension.
Paid Help:	distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.
Personal Care Activities:	activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.
Pretest:	the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married:	individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.
Random Sample:	a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.
Represenativeness:	the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.
S.D.:	a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.
Sample:	part of the population at large, selected for study.
Sample Frame:	the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.
Significant Differences:	determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.
Single:	persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.
Social Contacts:	visits with friends and family or in person.
Socio-Economic:	characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.
Stratified Sample:	a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements:	a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.
Tau:	Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.
Variable:	refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.
Volunteer:	a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

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